

THE *Gal. J. C.*  
BATCHELARS

Banquet:

OR

A Banquet for Batchelars: Wherein is prepared sundry daintie dishes to furnish their Table, curiously drest, and seriously serued in.

*Pleasantly discoursing the variable humours of Women, their quicknesse of wittes, and unsearchable deceits.*

*View them well, but taste not,  
Regard them well, but waste not.*



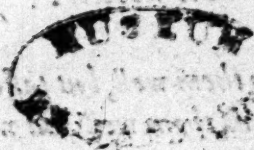
LONDON  
Printed by T. C. and are to be solde  
by T. P. 1603.

THE  
BATCHELARS  
BANDAGE:

OR

A Bandage for Batheclars: Which is proper  
and highly serviceable to furnish the  
Tales, and to be used in  
only one way.

By order of the Council of the  
Museum of Natural History  
London



*George Stevens.*

LONDON  
Printed by J. C. and J. B. Colclough  
at the Press of the  
T. B. 1807.





# The Batchelars Banquet,

Or a Banquet for Batchelars : wherin is prepared sundry dishes to furnish their Table :  
Curiously drest, and seriously  
serued in.



## CHAP. I.

The humour of a young wife new married.



**I**t is the naturall inclination of a young gallant, in the pleasant prime, and flower of his flourishing youth, being fresh, lusty, iocund, to take no other care, but to employ his money to buy gay presents for pretty Lasses, to frame his green wits in penning lone ditties, his voice to sing them sweetly, his wandring eyes to gaze on the fairest dames, and his wanton thoughts to plot meanes for the speedy accomplishment of his wished desires, according to the compasse of his estate. And albeit his parents or some other of his kindred, doe perhaps furnish him with necessary maintenance, so that he wants nothing, but liues in all ease and delight, yet cannot this content him, or satisfie his vncperienced mind : for although he dayly see many married men, first lapt in lobbes pound, wanting former libertie, and compassed round in a cage of many cares, yet notwithstanding being over-ruled by selfe will, and blinded by folly: he suppose them therein to haue the fulnes of their delight, because they haue so neare them the Image of content, Venus starre gloriously  
blazing

## The Batchelars Banquet.

blaying upon them, I meane a daintie faire wife, bzauely attired, whose apparell perhaps is not yet paid for, (howsoeuer to draw their husbands into a fowlen paradise) they make him beleene, that their father or mother haue of their coll and bounty afforded it. This lustie youth (as I earli said) seeing them already in this maze of bitter sweetnes, he goes round about, turnyng himselfe in seeking an entrance, and taking such paines to finde his owne paine, that in the end, in he gets, when so the hault he makes, to haue a taste of these supposed delicacies, he hath no leisure to thinke, or no care to provide those things that are hereunto requisite. The toky yonger being thus gotten in, both for a time swim in delight, and hath no desire at all to wind him selfe out againe, till time and vse, which makes all things moze familiar and lesse pleasing, doe qualifie this humour, then glutted with sacietie, or pinched with penury, he may perhaps begin to see his follie, and repent as well his fondnes, as his too much loywarthnes, but all too late, he must haue patience perforce: his wife must be maintained according to her degree, and withall (commonly it happes she carie the right stomacke of a woman) slender maintenance will not serue, for as their mindes mount aboue their estates, so commonly wil they haue their abilliments. And if at a least or some other gollesps meeting whereminto she is invited, she see any of the companie gaily attyzed for cost, or fashion, or both, & chiefly the latter, for generally women do affect nouelties, she forthwith moues a question in her selfe, why she also should not be in like sort attyzed, to haue her garments cut after the new fashion as well as the rest, and answers it with resolution, that she will, and must haue the like: Awaiting onely fit time and place, for the mouing and winning of her husband therevnto, of both which she will make such choice, that when she speaks she will be sure to speake: obseruing her opportunitie, when she might take her husband at the most aduantage, which is commonly in the bed, the gardaine of loue, the state of marriage delights, & the life wherein the weaker sexe hath ener the better: when therefore this lustie gallant would prosecute,

his



## The Batchelars Banquet.

his desired pleasures, for which cause he chiefly ran wilfully in-  
to the perill of Lobs pound, then squeamishly sh: begins thus,  
saying; I pray you husband let me alone, trouble me not, for I  
am not well at ease: which he hearing presently makes this  
reply. Why my sweet hart what ailes you, are you not well? I  
pray thee wife tell me, where lies thy griefe: or what is the  
cause of your discontent: whereupon the vile woman fetching  
a deepe sigh, makes this answer. O husband God help me, I  
have cause enough to grieue, and if you knew all you would  
say so: but alas it is in vaine to tell you any thing, seeing that  
whatsoever I say, you make but light reckning of it: and there-  
fore it is best for me to bury my sorowes in silence, being out of  
hope to haue any help at your hands. Iesus wile (saith he) why  
bis you these words, is my unkindnes such that I may not  
knowe your griefes? tell me I say what is the matter? In truth  
husband it were to no purpose, for I knowe your custome well  
inough, as for my words, they are but wast wind in your eares,  
for how great soener my griefe is, I am assured you will but  
make light of it, and thinks that I speake it for some other pur-  
pose.

Goe too wife, saith her husband, tell it me, for I wil know it.  
Well husband, if you will needs, you shal: you know on Thurs-  
day last, I was sent for, and you willes me to goe to Distresse  
M. churching, and when I came thither I found great cheare,  
& no smal companie of wines, but the meaneest of them all was  
not so ill attired as I, and surely I was neuer so ashamed of my  
selse in my life, yet I speake it not to praise my selse: but it is well  
knowne, and I dare boldly say, that the best woman there  
came of no better stocke then I. But alas I speake not this for  
my selse, for God woot I passe not how meanelly I am apparel-  
led, but I speake it for your credit & my friends. Why wife, saith  
he, of what calling & degree were those you speak of? Truly good  
husband (saith she) the meaneest that was there, being but of my  
degree, was in her gotone with franch flanes, her bardingale,  
her tuckie grograin kirtle, her taffety hat with a gold band, and  
these with the rest of her attire, made of the newest fashio, which is  
knowne

## The Batchelars Banquet.

knowe the best : whereas I poore wretch had on my shreade  
bare gowne, which was made me so long agoe, against I was  
married, besides that it was now too short for me, for it is I re-  
member since it was made aboue thre yeares agoe, since  
which time I am growne very much, and so changed with  
cares and griefes, that I looke farre older then I am: Trust  
me I was so ashamed, being amongst my neighbours, that  
I had not the heart to looke vp, but that which greued me most  
was, when mistresse Luce. B. & mistresse T said openly that it  
was a shame both for you and me, that I had no better appa-  
rell. Tush wife (quoth the good man) let them say what they  
list, we are neuer a whit the worse for their words, we haue  
enough to doe with our money though we spend it not in ap-  
parell: you knowe wife when we met together, we had no  
great store of household stuffe, but were faine to buy it afterward  
by some and some, as God sent money, and yet you see we want  
many things that is necessary to be had: besides the quarter  
day is nere, and my Landlord you know will not forbear his  
rent: moreover you see how much it costs me in law about the  
reconering of the Tenement which I should haue by you, God  
send me to get it quickly, or els I shall haue but a bad bargaine  
of it, for it hath already almost cost me as much as it is worth.  
At these words his wifes collar begins to rise, wherupon  
she makes him this answer. Iesus God (saith she) when you  
haue nothing els to hit me in the teeth withall, yet twit me  
with the Tenement: but it is my fortune. Why how now wife  
saith her husband, are you now angry for nothing? Nay I am  
not angry, I must be content with that which God hath or-  
dained for me: but tis the time was, when I might haue  
bene better aduised, there are some yet liuing that would haue  
bene glad to haue me in my smock, whom you know well e-  
nough, to be properer young men, and therewithall wise and  
wealthy, but I verily suppose I was bewitcht to match with a  
man that loues me not, though I purchased the ill will of all  
my friends for his sake, this is all the good that I haue gotten  
thereby: I may truly say I am the most unhappie woman in  
the



## The Batchelars Banquet.

the world: doe you thinke that Law. Tom. & N. M. (who were both saters to me) doe keepe their wiues so? no by cocks body, for I know the worst cloathes that they cast off, is better then my very best, which I weare on the cheifest daies in the yeare: I know not what the cause is that so many good women die, but I would to God that I were dead too that I might not trouble you no more, seeing I am such an eie sore vnto you. Now by my faith wife saith he, you say not well, there is nothing that I thinke too good for you, if my abillitie can compass it. But you knowe our estate, we must doe as we may, & not as we woul, yet be of good cheare, and turne to me, and I will straine myself to please you, in this or any other thing. Nay for Gods sake let me alone, I haue no mind on such matters, and if you had no more desire thereto then I, I promise you, you would neuer touch me. No wife (saith he) hoping so with a iest to make her mery, by my honestie I sweare, I verily thinke that if I were dead, you would not be long without another husband. No maruails sure saith she, I lead such a good life with you now. By my christian soule I sweare, there should neuer man kisse my lipps againe. And if I thought I should liue long with you, I would vse meanes to make my selfe away: here withall she puts finger in the eye making shew as though she wept. Thus plaies she with the fillicot her husband (meaning nothing lesse then to doe as she saies) while he worse soule is in mind both wel and ill apais, he thinkes himselfe well, because he imagines her of a cold constitution, and therefore exceeding chaste. he thinkes himselfe ill, to see her fained teares, for that he verily supposes she loues him, which doth not a little graue him, being so kind and tender harted. Therefore he vseth all meanes possible to make her quiet, neither wil he giue her ouer, til he hath effected it. But she prosecuting her former purpose, which she hath already set in so faire a forwardnes, makes as though she were nothing moued with his gentle perswasions; Therefore to crosse him, she gets her vp betimes in the morning, sower a great deale then she was wont, pouting and loutzing all the day, & not giuing him one good word. But when night comes,  
and

## The Batchelars Banquet.

and they againe both in bed, laying her selfe suddenly downe,  
and continuing still silent, the good man harkens whether she  
sleep or no, feels if she be wel covered or not, he softly plucks vp  
the cloathes vpon her, lapping her warme, being dubble diligent  
to please her. She lying all this while winking, noting his  
kindnes and carefulnes towards her, seems on a sud daine to  
awake from a sound sleepe, grunting and nodding vnder the  
sheetes, giving him occasion thereby thus to begin. *Wotst thou  
sweet hart, what are you a sleepe? A sleepe (saith she) I saith he  
no: a troubled mind can neuer take good rest. Why wouldst thou  
be not quiet yet? No doubt (saith she) you care much whether  
I be or no. By lady wife, and so I doe: and since yesternight I  
haue bethought me (hauing well considered your wordes) that  
it is very meete and requisite, that you should be better fur-  
nished with apparell then heretofore you haue bene, for indeed  
I must confesse thy cloathes are too simple. And therefore I mean  
against my cousin M. wedding (which you know wil be shortly  
by) that you shall haue a new gowne, made on the best fashion,  
with all things futable thereunto, in such sort that the best wo-  
man in the parish shall not passe you. Nay (quoth she) God  
willing I mean to go to no weddings this twelue moneths, for  
the goodly credit I got by the last. By my faith (saith he) but  
you shall: what? you must not be so headstrong and selfe-wild.  
I tell you if I say the word, you shall goe, and you shall want  
nothing that you aske or require. What I aske? alas husband  
(quoth she) I aske nothing, neither did I speake this for any de-  
sire that I haue to goe byane: trust me for mine owne part I  
care not if I neuer stirre abroad, saue onely to church: but what  
I said was vpon the speeches which were there vsed, and such  
other like wordes, which my gossip N. told me that she had al-  
so heard in company where she was. With these wordes y<sup>e</sup> good  
kind soles her husband is nettled, for on the one side he considers  
his sundry other occasions to vse money, and his small store  
thereof, which is perhaps so slender, that his single purse can  
not extempore change a double pistolet, And so ill bested is he  
of household stuffe, that perhaps the third part is not a sufficient  
pawne*



## The Batchelars Banquet.

patone for so much money, as this new suite of his wines will stand him in. But on the other side he waighes his discontent, the report of neighbours speeches, and lastly how good a wife he hath of her: how chaste, how loving, how religious, whereof the kind Alse hath such an opinion, that he thanks God with all his heart, for blessing him with such a Jewel: In this thought he resolues that all other things let aside he must and will consent her. And here withall he lets his baines afresh on worke, to consider how best he may compass it: And in this humour he spends the whole night without sleepe, in continuall thought. And it comes to passe that the wife perceiving to what a point she hath brought her purpose, doth not a little reioyce and smile in her sleeue to see it. The next morning by the break of day the poorer man gets up, who for care and thought could take no rest all night, and goes presently to the Drapers, of whom he takes up cloth for thre monethes time, paying for it after an excellent rate, by reason of their forbearance, and in like sort makes provision for the rest: or perhappes because he would buy it at a better rate, he pawns for ready money the lease of his house, or some faire peece of plate (which his grandfather bought, and his father charily keeping) left for him, which now he is forced to part with, to furnish thereby his wines pride: and having thus dispatched his business, he returnes home with a merry heart, and shewes his wife what he had done: who being now sure of all, begins to curse the first inventors of pride, and excess in apparell: saying, fye vpon it, what pride is this: but I pray you husband, do not say hereafter, that I made you lay out your money in this needles sort, for I protest that I haue no delight or desire to goe thus garishly: If I haue to cover my body and keepe me warme it contents me. The good man hearing his wife say so, doth euen leape for ioy, thinking all her words gospel, & therefore presently he lets the Taylor a worke, willing him to dispatch out of hand, that his wife may be braue so soon as may be. She hauing thus obtained her purpose doth inwardly triumph for her ioy, howsoeuer outwardly she doth dissemble. And whereas before she haunted, that she could find

## The Batchelars Banquet.

in her heart to keepe alwayes within doores, she will bee sure  
now every good day to goe abroad, and at each feast and Gos-  
sips meeting to bee a continuall guest, that all may see her  
bzaury, and how well she doth become it, for which cause  
she also comes every Sunday dayly to the Church, that there  
she may see and be seene, which her husband thinks she doth  
of mere deuotion. But in the meane while the time runs on,  
and the day comes, wherein the poore man must pay his cre-  
ditors, which being vnable to do, he is at length arrested, and  
after due proceeding in law, he hath an execution serued vpon  
him, by which his pawning is forfeited, and by either of both hee is  
almost utterly vndone. When must his fine wife of force haile  
her peacocke-plumes, and fall againe to her old byas, keeping  
her house against her will, because she could not be furnisht  
with gay attire according to her mind. But God knoweth in  
what misery the sillie man doth lye, being dayly vexed with  
her bzauling and scolding, exclaiming against him, that all  
the house doth ring thereof, and in this sort she begins her  
sagaries. Now cursed be the day that ever I sawe thy face,  
and a shame take them that brought me first acquainted with  
thee: I would to God I had either died in my cradle, or gone  
to my graue when I went to be married with thee. Was euer  
woman of my degree and birth brought to this beggery? Or  
any of my bzinging vp kept thus basely, and brought to this  
shame? I which little knew what labour meant, must now  
toyle and send the house as a vjodge, having neuer a coate to  
my backe, or scant handsome hole to my legs, and yet all little  
enough, whereas I wis I might haue had twentie good marria-  
ges, in the meanest of which I shoulde haue lived at ease and  
pleasure, without being put to any paine, or suffering any pe-  
nurie. Wretch that I am, why do I live? now would to God  
I were in my graue already, for I am wearie of the woode,  
weary of my life, and weary of all. Thus doth she dayly com-  
plaine, and lay all the fault of her fall on him which least de-  
serued it, nothing remembryng her owne pride, in conuicting  
things about her estate or abilitie, her misgouernment, & dayly  
gadding

Alas poore  
soule.



## The Batchelars Banquet.

gadding with her gossips to banquets and brydals, when she should haue lookt to the house, and followed her owne busines at home. And his folly is also such, that being blinded with dotage thzough too much louing her, cannot perceiue that she is the cause of all this euill, of all the cares, griefes, & thoughts, which perplexe and torture him, and yet nothing cuts him so much as this, to see her so sumish and vniquiet, when if he can at any time somewhat pacifie, then is his heart halfe at rest. Whis doth the silly wretch tosse and turmoile himselfe in loba pound, wapt in a kind of pleasing woe, out of the which he hath neither power, no: will to wind himselfe, but therein doth consume the remnant of his languishing life, and miserably ends his dayes.

### CHAP. II.

The humour of a woman, pranked vp in

braue apparell

**T**he nature of a woman inclined to another kind of humour, which is this, when the wife seeing her selfe branelly apparelled, and that she is therewith faire & comely (or if she be not) yet thinking her selfe so (as women are naturally giuen to sooth themselves, the both as I said before, hunt after feasts and sollemne meetings, wherewith her husband perhaps is not very well pleased; which she perceiuing, the more to bleare his eyes, she takes with her some kindswoman or gossip, or possible some lusty gallant, of whom she claimes kindred, though in very deed there be no such matter, but only a smooth cullos to deceiue her husband: And perchance to induce him the sooner to beleue it, her mother which is prime to the match, will not stick to say and sweare it is so: yet sometime the husband to prevent his wifes gadding, will saue somelet, as want of horses, or other like hinderances: then presently the gossip or kindswoman, of whom before I speake, will then sollemly assault him,

## The Batchelars Banquet.

Belov'd our gossip I have as little pleasure, as who hath least in going abroad, for thus I had not so much businesse to doe this twelve moneth as I have at this instant: yet should I not goe to this wedding, being so kindly bidden, I know the young bride would take it in very ill part: yea, and I may say to you, so would our neighbours, and other our friends, which will be there, who would verily imagine, we kept away for some other cause; and were it not for this, I protest I would not stirre out of doors, neither would my cousen your wife have any desire to goe thither: thus much I can truly witness, that I never knewe any woman take lesse delight in such things then your wife, or which being abroad, will make more hast to be at home againe. The silly man her husband being vanquished by these wordes, and no longer able to deny their request, demands onely what other women doe appoint to goe, and who shall man them. Parrie Sir (saith she) that shall my cousen H. And besides your wife and I, there goes my kinswoman T. and her mother, mistresse H. and her Aunt: my Uncle T. and his brother be met with both their wines: mistresse C. my next neighbour: and to conclude, all the women of account in this streete: I dare boldly say, that honeste company there cannot be, though it were to convey a kings daughter.

Now it oft chaunceth that this smooth tongued Quaker who pleades thus quaintly with womans art, must have for her paines a goodlie cloth, a Jewell, or some other recompence, if she prevaille with the good man & cunningly play her part. He after some pause, perhaps will reply in this sort: Gossip, I confesse it is very good company, but my wife hath now great businesse at home, and besides she wleth to goe very much abroad, yet for this time I am content she shall goe: But I pray you darne quoth he, be at home betimes. His wife seeing that her gossip had gotten leave, makes as if she cares not for going forth, saying: By my faith man I have something els to do, then to goe to bridealle at this present: what, we have a great household, and rude servants God wot: whose wilnes is such, that they



## The Batchelars Banquet.

they will not doe any thing, if a bodie's backe be turned: for it is an old prouerbe, When the cat is away, the mouse will play. And therefore gossip hold you content, we must not be altogether careles, nor let so much by our pleasure, to neglect our profit: And therefore hold me excused, for I cannot now be spared, nor I will not goe that is flat. Say good gossip (saith the other) seeing your husband hath giuen you leaue, let vs haue your company this once, & if it be but for my sake, such a chaunce as this comes not euery day. With that the good man taking the old Gib aside, whispers her thus in her eare: were it not gossip for the confidence I repose in you, I protest she should not stir out of doores at this time. Now as I am an honest woman (quoth she) and of my credit gossip you shall not need to doubt any thing.

Thus to hoxle they get, and away they spurre with a merry gallop, laughing to themselves, mocking and flouting the silly man for his simplicitie: the one saying to the other, that he had a shrewde Jealous haine, but it should auail him nothing. Thus saith the young woman, it is an olde saying, he had need of a long spouse that will eate with the diuell: and she of a good wit, that would prevent the furie of a iealous wife: and with this and the like talks, they passe the time till they come to the place appointed, where they meete with lustie gallants, who peradventure had at the former feast made the match, and were come thither of purpose to strike vp the bargain. But howsoeuer it is, this lustie Lasse lacks no good cheare, nor any kindnes which they can shew her. Imagin now how toward she will be to shew her best skill in dancing and singing, and how lightly she will afterward esteeme her husband: being thus courted and conuenced by a crew of lustie gallants, who seeing her so bzauely attired, and graced with so sweet & smooth a tongue, so sharpe a wit, so amiable a countenance, will each strive to exceed other, in serving, louing, and pleasing her: so the gallant carriage and wanton demeanour of so beautifull a peece, cannot chuse but incozage a meere colward, and heat (if not inflame) a frozen heart: One assaies her with sugred

tearmer

## The Batchelars Banquet.

tearmes, and some pleasing discourse, painting forth his affection with louers eloquence: another giues her a priue token by straining her soft hand, or treading on her prettie foote: another eyes her with a piercing and pittifull looke, making his countenance his fancies her rold: and perhaps the third which is most likely to speede, bestowes vpon her a gold Ring, a Diamond, a Ruby, or some such like costly toy: By all which aforesaid tokens she may well conceiue their meanings if (she haue any conceit at all) and sometimes it so falls out, that they fall in where they should not, and she stepping somewhat aside, doth so shrewdly straine her honesty, that hardly or neuer the griefe can be cured. But to proceed, this ouergorgious wantoning of his wife, brings the poore man behind hand, and doth withall cause a greater inconuenience for in the end by one meanes or other, either through her too much boldnes, or her louers want of warinesse, the matter at length comes to light, whereof some friend or kinsman giues him notice. He being tickled by this bad report, therupon searching further, finds it true, or gathers more likelihood of suspition, & that presently infects his thoughts with ialousie, into which mad tormenting humor no wise man will euer fall: for it is an euill both extreame & endless, especially if it be iustly conceined vpon the wifes knowne leandnes, for then there is no hope of curing. She on the other side seeing this, and receiuing for her loose life many bitter speeches, doth closely keepe on her old course, but now more for spight then pleasure, for it is in vaine to thinke y she will reclaim her selfe. And if he hoping by constraint to make her honest, fall to beating her (though he vse neuer so much severity) he shall but kinde so much the more the fire of that letted loue which she beares vnto others: hereon folloves a heape of mischiefs, he growes careles of his busines, letting all things run to ruine: she on the other side becomes shameles, conuerting into deadly hate the loue that she should beare him. Judge now what a purgatorie of perplexities the poore man doth liue in, and yet for all this he is so belotted, that he seems to take great pleasure in his paines, and to be so farre in loue with his pound, that



## The Batchelars Banquet.

that were he not already in, yet he would make all haste possible to be possessed of the place, there to consume the residue of his life, and miserably end his dayes.

### CHAP. III.

#### The humour of a woman lying in Child-bed.

**T**here is another humoꝝ incident to a woman, when her husband sees her belly to grow big (though peradventure by the help of some other friend) yet he perswades himselfe, it is a woꝝke of his owne framing: and this breeds him new cares & troubles, for then must he trot by & down day & night, far, & neere, to get with great cost that his wife longs for: if she let fall but a pin, he is diligent to take it up, least she by stouping should hurt her selfe. & he on the other side is so hard to please, that it is a great hap whe he fits her humoꝝ, in bringing home that which likes her, though he spare no paines noꝝ cost to get it. And oft times through ease and plenty she growes so queasie stomack, that she can make no common meates, but longs for strange and rare things, which whether they be to be had oꝝ no, yet she must haue them there is no remedie. She must haue Cherries, though for a pound he pay ten shillings, oꝝ greene Peasods at foure pables a peck: yea, he must take a horse, and ride into the Countrey, to get her greene Codlings, when they are scarcely so big as a scotch button. In this trouble and variation of mind and body, liues the silly man for sixe oꝝ seven months, all which time his wife doth nothing but complaine, and her poore soule takes all the care, rising early, going late to bed, and to be short, is faine to play both the husband and huiuswife. But when the time drawes neere of her lying downe, then must he trudge to get Cossips, such as shee will appoint, oꝝ else all the fatte is in the fire. Consider then what cost and trouble it will be to him, to haue all things fine against the Christning day, what store of Sugar, Biskets, Comphets and Crownges, Parmilade, and

## The Batchelars Banquet.

and marchpane, with all kind of sweets, lincts, and superfluous banqueting stuffe, with a hundred other odder and needlesse trifles, which at that time must fill the pockets of daintie dames: Besides the charge of the midwife, she must haue her nurse to attend and keepe her, who must make for her warme broaths, and costly candels, enough both for her selfe and her mistress, being of the minde to care no more then she: If her mistress be lesse with partridge, plouer, woodcocks, quailles, or any such like, the nurse must be partner with her in all these dainties: neither yet will that suffice, but during the whole month, she pryncely pilfers away the sugar, the nutmegs and ginger, with all other spices that comes vnder her keeping, putting the poore man to such expence, that in a whole yeare he can scarcely recover that one moneths charges. When euery day after her lying downe will sundry dames visit her, which are her neighbours, her kinswomen, and other her speciall acquaintance, whom the godman must welcme with all cheerefulness, and be sure there be some dainties in store to set before them: where they about some three or foure houres (or possible halfe a day) will sit chatting with the Child-wife, and by that time the cups of wine haue merily trolld about, and halfe a dozen times moystned their lips with the sweet iyce of the purple grape: They begin thus one with another to discourse; Good Lord neighbo, I maruaile how our gossip Freesboth, I haue not seene the good soule this many a day.

Oh God helpe her, quoth another, for she hath her hands full of worke, & her heart full of heavinesse: While she dudgeth all the weeke at home, her husband, like an enthusiast, neuer leaues running abroad to the Tennis court, and Dicing houses, spending all that euer he hath in such lewd sport: yea, & if that were the worst it is well: But heare you Gossip, there is another matter (spoyles all, he cares no more for his wife then for a dog, but keepes queanes euen vnder her nose. Ieso sayth another, who would thinke he were such a man, he behaues himselfe so orderly and ciuilly, to all mens sightes: Loth, holds your peace Gossip (saith the other) it is commonly seene, the

Gill



## The Batchelars Banquet

still so we eates vp all the drasse, he carries a smoth counte-  
 nance, but a corrupt conscience: What I knowe F. well e-  
 nough, I will not say he loues mistress G. goe to gossip I  
 drinke to you, Pea and saith another, there goes foule lies if G.  
 himselfe loues not his maid N. I can tell you their meutes  
 will not be stoppt with a bushell of wheat that speake it. When  
 the third fetching a great sigh, saying, by my truth such an o-  
 ther old Bettrice haue I at home: soz neuer giue me credit  
 gossip, if I toke her not the other day in close conference with  
 her maister, but I thinke I beswaddeld my maid in such sozt,  
 that she will haue small list to do so againe. Nay gossip (saith  
 another) had it bene to me, that should not haue serued her  
 turne, but I would haue turnd the queane out of doore to picke  
 a Sallet: soz wot ye what gossip: it is ill setting fire and flays  
 together: but I pray you tell me one thing, when saw you our  
 friend mistress C: now in good sothe she is a kind creature,  
 and a very gentle Peat: I promise you I saw her not since you  
 and I dranke a pinte of wine with her in the fish market. (A  
 gossip saith the other) there is a great change since that time, soz  
 they haue bene faine to pawne all that euer they haue, and yet  
 God knowes her husband lies still in prison. O the passion of  
 my heart (saith another) is all their great and glorious she to  
 come to nothinge good Lord what a world is this. (Why gossip  
 saith another) it was neuer like to be otherwise, soz they loue  
 euer to goe fine, and fare daintily, and by my saith gossip, this  
 is not a world soz those matters, and therupon I drinke to you.  
 This is commonly their communication, where they find  
 cheare according to their choice. But if it happen contrary, that  
 they find not things in such plenty, and good order as they  
 would wish, then one or other of them will talke to this effect:  
 Trust me gossip I maruel much, and so doth also our o-  
 ther friends, that your husband is not ashamed to make such  
 small account of you, and this your sweete child. If he be such a  
 niggard at the first, what will he be by that time he hath  
 fine or six: it doth well appeare he beares but little love to you:  
 whereas you boughsasing to match with him, hath done him  
C
more

## The Batchelars Banquet.

more credit then euer had any of his kindred. Before God, saith another, I had rather see my husbands eyes out then he should serue me so : therefore if you be wise vble him not to it : neither in this sort let him tread you vnder foote : I tell you it is a foule shame for him, and you may be wel assured sith he begins thus, that hereafter he wil vble you in the same order, if not worse. In good sooth saith the thirde, it seemes very straunge to me, that a wise woman, and one of such parentage as you are, who as all men knowes is by blood farre his better, can endure to be thus vbled by a base companion : Blame be not to speake good gossip, for I protest the wrong that he doth you, doth likewise touch vs, and all other good women that are in your case.

The Child-wife hearing all this, begins to weape, saying, Alas Gossip, I know not what to do, or how to please him, he is so diuerse and wayward a man, and besides, he thinks all too much that is spent. (Gossip he is saith one) a badde and a naughtie man, and so it is well seene by your vblage. All my Gossips here present can tell, that when I was married to my husband, euery one saide that hee was so hastie and hard to please that he would kill me with griefe : And indeed I may say to you, I found him crabbed enough : for he began to take vpon him mightily, and thought to haue wrought wonders, yet I haue vbled such meanes, that I haue tamed my young maister, and haue at this present brought him to that passe, that I dare sweare hee had rather lose one of his toynts, then Rangle with me : I will not deny but once or twice hee beate me shrewdly, which I God-wot being young and tender toke in greuous part, but what he got by it, let my Gossip T. report, who is yet a woman living, and can tell the whole storie : to whom my good man within a while after saide, that I was past remedie, and that he might sooner kill me, then do any good by beating me, (and by these ten bones so hee should) but in the ende I brought the matter so about, that I got the bydle into my owne handes, so that I may now say, I do what I list : for be it right or wrong, if I say it, hee will not gainsay it, (for  
by



## The Batchelars Banquet.

by this Golde on my finger, let him do what hee can, I will be sure to haue the last word: so that in very deed, if that women be made vnderlings by their husbands, the fault is their owne: for there is not any man aliue, be he neuer so churlish, but his wife may make him quiet and gentle enough if shee haue any wit: And therefore your good man serues you but well enough, with you will take it so.

Belæue me Gossip (saith another) were I in your case, I would giue him such a welcome at his comming home, and ring such a peale of badde words in his eares, that he should haue small ioy to stale the hearing.

Thus is the poore man handled behinde his backe, while they make no spare to helpe away with his Wine and Sugar which hee hath prepared, whome they for his kindnes thus requites: yea now and then hauing their bzaines well heated, they will not sticke to tannet him to his face: Accusing him of little loue, and great unkindnesse to his wife. Now it doth many times so chaunce, that he hauing bene to prouide such meates as shee would haue, he commeth home perhappes at midnight, and befoze hee restes himselfe, hath a verie earnest desire to see how his wife doth, and perchaunce being loath to lye abroade because of expence, trauailes the later, that hee may reache to his owne house, where when hee is once come, he asketh the Chamber-maide, or else the Nurse, how his wife doth; they hauing their errand befoze giuen them by their Mistresse, answeres, she is verie ill at ease, and that since his departure she tasted not one bit of meat, but that toward the euening she began to be a little better, all which he meere-lies. But the poore man hearing these words, grieues not a little, though perhaps he be all to be moyle, wearie & wet, hauing gone a long iourney through a badde and filthy way, vpon some ill paced trotting Jade, and it may be is fasting too, yet will hee neither eate nor drinke, nor so much as sit downe, till he haue seene his wife. When the prattling Idle Nurse, which is not to learne to employe suche a peece of seruice, begins to looke verie heavily,

## The Batchelars Banquet.

beauty, and to sigh inwardly as though her mistresse had bene that day at the point of death, which he seeing, is the more earnest to visit his wife: whom at the entrance of the chamber, he heares her lie groning to her selfe, and comming to the beds side, kindly sits down by her, saying how now my sweet heart, how doest thou? Ah husband (saith she) I am very ill, nor was I euer so sicke in my life as I haue bene this day. Alas good soule (saith he) I am the more sozie to heare it, I pray thee tell me where lies thy paine? Ah husband (quoth she) you know I haue bene weake along time, and not able to eate any thing. But wife (quoth he) why did you not cause the puerle to boile you a capon, and make a messe of good broath for you? so she did (saith his wife) as well as she could, but it did not like me God wot, & by that meanes I haue eaten nothing, since the broath which your selfe made me: Oh me thought that was excellent good. Marie wife (saith he) I will presently make you some more of the same, & you shall eate it for my sake. With all my heart good husband (saith she) and I shall thinke my selfe highly beholding vnto you: then trudgeth he into the kitchen, there plates he the Cooke, burning and broiling himselfe over the fire, hauing his eies readie to be put out with smoake, while he is busie in making the broath: what time he chides with his maides, calling them beastes and baggages that knowes not how to do any thing, not so much as make a little broath for a sicke bodie, but he must be faine to doe it himselfe. When comes down mistresse puerle as fine as a farthing fiddle, in her pettie-coate and kertle, hauing on a white wastcoate, with a flaunting cambrycke ruffe about her neck, who like a Doctris in facultie comes thus vpon him. Good Lord Sir, what paines you take, here is no bodie can please our mistresse but your selfe: I will assure you on my credit that I doe what I can, yet for my life I cannot I, any way content her. Whereouer here came in mistresse Cot. and mistresse Con. who did both of them what they could to haue your wife eate something, nevertheless all that they did, could not make her taste one spoonefull of any thing all this liuelong day: I know not what  
The



## The Batchelars Banquet.

She ayles : I haue kept many women in my time, both of wor-  
ship and credit (simple though I stand here) but I neuer  
knew any so weake as she is. I, I (quoth he) you are a com-  
panie of cunning cookes, that cannot make a little bzoath as it  
should be. And by this time the bzoath being readie, he brings  
it straight to his wife, comforting her with many kind words,  
praying her to eate it for his sake, or to taste a spoonfull or  
twaine, which she doth, commending it to the heauens, affir-  
ming also, that the bzoath which the others made had no good  
taste in the world, and was nothing worth. The good man  
hereof being not a little proud, bids them make a good fire in  
his wifes Chamber, charging them to tend her well. And ha-  
uing giuen this order, he gets himselfe to supper, with some  
cold meate set before him, such as the gossips left, or his Purse  
could spare, and hauing taken this short pittance he goes to  
bed full of care. The next morning he gets him vp betimes,  
and comes kindly to know how his wife doth, who presently  
pops him in the mouth with a smooth lye, saying, that all night  
she could take no rest till it grew towards the morning, and  
then she began to feele a little more ease, when God knowes  
she neuer slept more soundly in all her life. Well wife, said the  
good man, you must remember that this night is our Gossips  
supper, and they will come hither with many other of our  
friends, therefore we must provide something for them, espe-  
cially because it is your vsitting, and a fortnight at the least  
since you were brouht to bed : but good wife, let vs gae as  
nere to the world as we may, seeing that our charge doth  
euery day increase, and money was neuer so ill to come by.  
She hearing him to say so, begins to pout, saying; would for  
my part I had dyed in trauell, and my poore Infant bene  
strangled in the birth, so should you not be troubled with vs  
at all. nor haue cause to repine so much at your spending.  
I am sure there is neuer a woman in the world, that in my  
case hath worse keeping, or is lesse chargeable, yet let me pinch  
and spare, and do what I can, all is thought too much that I  
haue : Trust me, I care not a straw whether you provide me

## The Batchelars Banquet.

anything or no, though the sorrow be mine, the shame will be yours, as yesterday for example: I am sure here came in above a dozen of our neighbours and friends, of mere kindnesse to see me, and knowe how I did, who by their countenance and comming did you greater credit then you desire: But God knowes what entertainment they had, hauing nothing in the house to set before the, which made me so much ashamed, that I knew not what to say: He tell you what, before God I may boldly speake it (for I haue seene it) that when any of them lyes in, their very seruants haue better fare then I my selfe had at your hands, which they seeing betwixt themselves yesterday when they were here, did kindly floute both you and me for their entertainment. I haue not (as you know) lene in above 15. dayes, and can yet scant stand on my legs, & you thinke it long till I be moyling about the house to catch my bare, as I feare I haue done already. Beloue me wife (quoth he) you mistake me greatly, for no man in y<sup>e</sup> world can be more kind to his wife, the I haue bin to you. Kind to me (quoth you) by y<sup>e</sup> masse y<sup>e</sup> you haue with a murren, no doubt but I haue had a swete messe of cherishing at your hands, but I see your drift wel enough, you gape euery day for my death, and I would to God it were so for me: The month indeed is halfe expired, and I feare the rest wil come before we be ready for it: My Sister S. was here no longer ago then to day, and asat if I had euer a new gown to be Churched in, but God wot I am far enough fro it, neither do I desire it, though it be a thing which ought both by reason & custome to be done: And because it is your pleasure, I will rise to morrow, what chance soeuer befall, for the worst is, I can but lose my life: still well may I gather by this, how you will vse me hereafter, and what account you would make of me, if I had nine or ten children, but God forbid it should euer come so to passe, I desire rather to be rid of my life, and so to shun the shame of the world, then long to liue with such an unkind churle. Now verily wife (saith the good man) I must needs blame your impatience, for growing so cholerick without cause. Without cause (quoth she?)



## The Batchelars Banquet.

she: ) Do you thinke I haue no iust cause to complaine: I  
 will assure you there is neuer a woman of my degree, that  
 would put vp the intollerable iniuries that I haue done, and  
 dayly doe, by meanes of your hoggish conditions. Well  
 wife saith the good man, lye as long as you list, and rise when  
 you will, but I pray you tell me how this new gowne may  
 be had, which you so earnestlie aske for: By my faith (quoth  
 she) you say not well, for I aske nothing at your hands, nei-  
 ther would I haue it though I might: I thanke God I haue  
 gownes enough already, and sufficient to serue my turne,  
 and you know I take no delight in garish attire, for I am past  
 a girle, but it makes me smile to see what a shew of kindnes  
 you would faine make: I see on thee dissembler, you can cog  
 and flatter as well as any man in this towne, and full little  
 thinke they that see you abroad, what a diuell you are at home:  
 for what with your crooked qualities, with toyling, moyling,  
 carking and caring, and being-broke broken with Child-  
 bearing, my countenance is quight changed, so that I looke  
 already as withered, as the barke of an Elder bough: Where  
 is my Cousen T. T. who when I was a little girle, was at  
 womans estate, and in the end married Maister H. with  
 whom she leades a Ladies life, looking so young and lustie,  
 that I may seeme to be her mother: I, I, such is the difference  
 twixt a kind, and an uncourteous husband, and who knowes  
 not but he was a sister to me, and made many a iourney to my  
 fathers house for my sake, & would so faine haue had me, that  
 while I was to marry he would not match himselfe with any:  
 but so much was I bewitcht, that after I had once seene you,  
 I would not haue changed for the best Lord in the land, and  
 this I haue in recompence of my loue and loyaltie. Goe to  
 wife (saith he) I pray you leaue these lawish speeches, and let  
 vs call to minde where we may best take vp cloth for your  
 gowne: for you see, such is our weake estate, that if we should  
 rashly lay out that little money which is in the house, we  
 might possible bee vnprouided of all other necessities:  
 Therefore whatsoeuer should chaunce hereafter, it is best to

The Fox will  
eate no grapes

No more like  
the woman  
I was, then an  
apple is like  
an oyster.

keape

## The Batchelars Banquet.

kepe something against a rainy day : And againe you knote  
within these right or nine dayes , I have five poynde to pay  
to Maister P. which must be done there is no shift, otherwise  
I am like to sustaine treble damage. Cuth (quoth she) what  
talke you to me of these matters : alas I aske you nothing :  
I would to God I were once rid of this trouble : I pray you  
let me take some rest , for my head akes (God helpe me as it  
would go in pieces) I wis you seele not my paine, and you take  
little care for my grieve : Wherefore I pray you send my Col-  
lips word that they may not come , for I seele my selfe very ill  
at ease. Not so (quoth he) I wil neither breake custome , nor  
so much as gaine say their courteous offer , they shall come  
sure, and be entertained in the best manner I may. Well  
(quoth she) I would to God you would leaue me, that I might  
take a little rest, and then do as you list. Upon these speeches  
the Purse straight strypes in, and roundes her maister in the  
care, I pray you Sir do not force her to many words , for it  
makes her head light, and doth great harme to a woman in  
her case, especially her braines being so light for want of sleepe:  
and besides, shee is God knowes , a woman of a tender and  
choyce complexion, and with that shee drawes the Curtaines  
about the bed. Thus is the poore man held in suspence till the  
next day that the Cossips come , who will play their parts so  
kindly, and gaul him so to the quick with their quibs & taunts,  
that his courage wil be wholly quailde, and he alreadie (if they  
should bid him, like the prodigal childe, even to cate drasse with  
the hogges) rather then he would displease them. But to pro-  
ceede, her in the meane while is double diligence, to provide all  
things against their comming , according to his abilitie, and  
by reason of his wifes words, he buyes moze meate, and pre-  
pares a great deale better cheare then he thought to have  
done. At their comming he is readie to welcome them with  
his Cap in hand, and all the kindnesse that may be shewed.  
Then doth her frudge bare-headed vp and downe the house,  
with a cheareful countenance, like a good Ass, sit to heare the  
burthen, he byings the Cossips vp to his wife, and comming  
first



## The Batchelars Banquet.

first to her himself, he tels her of their comming. His (quoth she) I had rather they had kept at home, and so they would too, if they knew how little pleasure I tooke in their comming. Nay I pray you wife (saith he) giue them good countenance, seeing they be come for good will: with this they enter, and after mutuall greetings, with much gossip ceremonies, downe they sit and there spend the whole day, in breaking their fasts, dining, and in making an after-noonnes repast: besides their petty supplings at her beds side, and at the cradle, where they discharge their parts so well, in helping him away with his good Wine and Sugar, that the poore man comming oft to cheare them, doth well perceiue it, and grieues inwardly thereat, howsoever he couers his discontent with a merrie countenance. But they not caring how the game goes, take their penitwoorths of that cheare that is before them, neuer asking how it comes there, and so they merily passe the time away, prattling and tattling of many good matters. Afterward the poore man trots by and downe anew, to get his wife the aforesaid golwne, and all other things therto suitable, whereby he sets himself soundly in debt: sometimes he is troubled with the childes bawling: sometimes he is bawld at by the Nurse: then his wife complaines, that she was neuer well since she was brought to bed, then must hee cast his cares anew, deuising by what meanes to discharge his debts and lessen his expences: then resolues he to diminish his owne port, and augment his wines bawerie, he will go all the yeare in one sute, and make two paire of shoes serue him a twelue-moneth, keeping one paire for holy dayes, another for working dayes, and one hat in thre or foure yeares. Thus according to his owne rash desire, he is vp to the eares in Robb-pownd, and for all the woe and wretchednes that he hath felt, he would not yet be out againe, but doth then willingly consume himselfe in continuall care, sorrow and trouble, till death doth set him free.

D

CHAP.

# The Batchelars Banquet.

## CHAP. IIII.

The Humour of a woman that hath a charge of children.

Being tyred  
with scolding,  
as a hackney  
lade with  
trauell.

**T**he next Humour that is by nature incident to a woman, is when the husband hath bin married niae or ten yeares, hath five or sixe children, hath passed the euill dayes, vnquiet nights, and troubles aforesaid, hath b s lustie youthfullnesse spent, so that it is now high time for him to repent: But such is his grosse folly that hee cannot, and such his dulnesse, though the continuall verations, which haue tained and wearied him, that he cares not whatioeuer his wife saith or doth, but is hardened like an old Asse, which being vled to the whip wil not once mend his pace be he lashed neuer so much: The poore man seeth two or three of his daughters marriage-able, which is soone knowne by their wanton trickes, their playing, dauncing, and other youthfull toyes, but he keepesthem back, hauing perhaps small commings in, to keep, maintain, and furnish them as they looke for, with gownes, kettles, linnen, and other ornaments as they should be for thre causes. First, that they may be the sooner sued vnto by lusty gallants: Secondly, because his denying hereof, should nothing auaille: for his wife which knowes her daughters humours by her owne, when she was of the like yeares, will see that they shall want nothing: Thirdly, they peraduenture, bearing right womens minds, if their father keepe them short, will find some other friends that shall affoord it them. The poore man being thus perplexed on all sides, by reason of the excessive charges which he must beeat, will (as it is likely) be but honestly attyred himselfe, not caring how he goes so he may rubbe out, be it neuer so barely, and would be glad to scape so: But as the Fish in the Wonde, which would also thinke him selfe well, though wanting former libertie, if he might be suffered to continue, is cut off betoze his time: So is likewise this poore man serued, being  
once



## The Batchelars Banquet.

once plunged in the perplexing Ponde, or rather ponde of wedlocks and house-keeping: for whosoever, when he considers the aforesaid charges and troubles, he begins to haue no ioy of himselfe, and is no more moued then a tyred Iave which forceth not for the spurre, yet for the furnishing of his wife and daughters, so that he may haue peace at home, and enioy an easie bondage, he must trudge vp and downe early and late about his businesse, in that course of life which he professeth: Sometimes he iournies thirtie or fortie myles off, about his affaires: Another time twice so farre to the Warre or Allies, concerning some olde matter in lawe, which was begunne by his Graund father, and not yet towards an ende, he pulles on a paire of bootes of seven yeares old, which haue bene coled so oft, that they are now a foote to short for him, so that the toppe of the bootes reaches no farther then the calfe of his legge, he hath a paire of spurres of the olde making, whereof the one wants a rowell, and the other for want of leathers, is fastned to his shoe with a poynt: he putteth a laced coate on his backe, which he hath had sixe or seven yeares, which he neuer wore but vpon high dayes, whose fashion is growne cleane out of request, by reason of newe inuened garmens: whatsoeuer sports or pleasures he lights on by the way on his iourney, he takes no ioy in them, because his mind is altogether on his troubles at home, he fares hard by the way, as also his poore horse, (if he haue any) his man followes him in a turnd sute, with a sword by his side, which was found vnder a hedge at the siege of *Bullen*, he hath a coate on his back, which euery man may know was neuer made for him, or he not present whe it was cut out, for the wings on his shoulders comes downe halfe way his arme, and the skirts as much below his waist: To be short, the poore man goeth euery way as neare as may be, for he remembers at what charges he is at home, & knowes not what it will cost him, in seeing his Conncellores Attornies, & Petty foggers, which wil do nothing without present pay: he dispatcheth his businesse speedily, and hies him home with such hast, to auoid greater charges that he

## The Batchelars Banquet.

rests no where by the way. And hereby it chanceth that many times he comes home at such an houre, as is as neare morning, as to night, and finds nothing to eate, for his wife and servants are in bed, all which he takes patiently, being now well bled to such entertainment: surely for my part that God sends such adversitie and distresse to those only whose good and mild nature, he knowes to be such, that they will take all things in good part. But to proceed, it is very likely that the poore man is verie wearie, his heart heavie by reason of the care and thought which he hath of his businesse, and it may be he looks to be welcome to his owne house, and there to refresh himselfe, howsoever he forgets not his former blage. But it falls out otherwise, for his wife begins to chide, whose words carries such a sway with the servants, that whatsoever their maister saith, they make small account of it: but if their mistress commaund any thing, it is presently done, and her humour followed in all things, else must they pack out of service, so that it bootes not him to bid them doe any thing, or rebuke them for not doing it. And his poore man that hath bene with him, dares not likewise open his mouth to call for any victuals to comfort himself, or for the horses, least they should suspect him to be of his maisters faction, who being wise, of a quiet and mild nature, is loath to make any stir, or breed any disquietnes in the house, and therefore takes all in good part, and sits him downe farre from the fire, though he be very cold: But his wife and children stand round about it, but all their eyes are cast on her, who looks on her husband with an angry countenance, not caring to provide ought for his supper, but contrariwise taunts him with sharp and shrewish speeches, whereof for the most part, he answers not a word, but sometimes perhaps being vexed through hunger, or wearines, or the unkindnes of his wife, he doth thus utter his mind. Well wife you can looke well enough to your selfe, but as for me I am both wearie and hungry, having neither eaten nor drunke all this day, and being beside wet to the very skinne, yet you make no reckoning to provide any thing for my supper.



## The Batchelars Banquet.

She (quoth she) you do well to begin first, least I should, which haue most cause to speake: Haue you not done verie well thinke yee, to take your man with you, and leaue me no body to white the cloathes? Now before God, I haue had more losse in my linnen, then you will get this tweluemonth. Moreover, you shut the Hen-house doore very well, did you not? when the ffox got in and eate vp foure of my best hewes Hennes, as you to your cost will sone finde by the masse: if you liue long, you w<sup>l</sup> be the poorest of your kinne. Well wife (saith the good man) vse no such words I pray you, God be thanked I haue enough, and more shall haue when it pleaseth him; and I tell you, I haue good men of my kinne. But quoth she I knowe not where they be, nor what they are worth. Well (saith he) they are of credit and abilitie too. But for all that (quoth she) they do you small good. As much good (saith he) as any of yours. As any of mine (saith she) and that she spoke with such a high note, that the house rung withall, saying; By cocks soule were it not for my friends you would do but sootyly. Well good wife (saith he) let vs leaue this talke. Nay (saith she) if they heard what you said, they would answer you well enough. The good man holds his peace, fearing least she should tell them, being of greater abillitie then he was, and besides, because he was loth that they should be offended with him. When one of the children falls a crying, and he perhaps which his father loued best, whereupon the mother presently toke a rod, turned vp the childs taile and whipt him wellsauoredly, and the more to despight and anger her husband, then for ought else. The good man being here with somewhat moued, wills her to leaue beating the child, shewing by his bended browes that he was not a litle angry at her doings. Now gip with a murrin (quoth she) you are not troubled with them, they cost you nothing, but it is I that haue all the paines with them night and day. When comes in the Nurse with her verdict, and thus she begins, saying: O sir, you know not what a hand she hath with them, and we also that tend them. When comes in the Chamber-maid with her

## The Batchelars Banquet.

five egges: In god faith fir it is a shame for you, that at your coming home, when all the whole house should be glad thereof, that you should contrariwise put it thus out of quiet. Saith he, is it I that makes this stirre? Then is the whole household against him, when he seeing himselfe thus baited on all sides, and the match so vnequall, gets him to bed quietly without his supper, all wet and durtie, or if he do say he hath but thin fare: and being in bed, where he should take his rest, he is so disquieted with the childzen, whome the nurse and his wife doth on purpose set on crying, to anger him the more, that for his life he cannot sleepe one winke. Thus is he vexed with continuall troubles, where with he seemes to be well pleased, and would not though he might be free from them, but doth therein spend his miserable and unhappie life.

### CHAP. V.

The humour of a woman that maries her inferior by birth.

**A** Woman is inclined to another kind of humour, which is, when the husband hath bene married, and hath passed so many troubles, that he is wearied therewith, his lusty youthfull bloud growne cold, is matched with a wife of better birth then himselfe, and perhaps yonger, both which things are very dangerous, and no wise man should seeke his own spoile, by wrapping himselfe in any of those bonds, because they are so repugnant, that it is both against reason & nature to accomod them. Sometimes they haue childzen, sometimes they haue none, yet this notwithstanding, the wife can take no paines, yet must be maintained according to her degree, to the husbands exceeding charges: for the furnishing whereof, the poorer man is forced to take extreme toile and paines, and yet for all this, thanks God, for vouchsafing him so great a grace, as to be matcht with her. It now and then they grow to hot words together (as oft it happens) then presently in vpholding and mena-



## The Batchelars Banquet.

menacing foxt she tels him, that her friends did not match her to him to be his vjrbge, and that she knowes well enough of what linage she is come, and will byag withall, that when she list to write to her friends & kinsmen they will presently fetch her away. Thus doth she keepe him in awe, and in a kind of servitude, by telling him of them, who would perhaps have matcht her better, & not with him, but for some priuy scape that she hath had before, whereof the poore soule knowes nothing, or if perhaps he hath heard some inkling therof, yet because he is simple, the credit that he might giue thereto is quickly dasht, by a contrary tale of others subboznd by them, who perchance will not stick to sweare that this a slander raised by euill tongues, & forged maliciously against her, as the like is done against in any other good women, whose good names are wzonged, & bzought in questio by bad persons on their tipling bench, because themselves cannot obtaine their purpose of them: notwithstanding if her husband be not able to maintaine her according to her mind, then will she be sure to haue a friend in store, that shall affoꝝd it her: if her husband deny it, and in the end she remembers that such a gentleman at such a feast proffered her a diamond, or sent her by a messenger some 20. or thirtie crownes, which she as then refused, but now purposeth to giue him a kind glance, to renew his affectio, who conceiuing some better hope, and meeting some after with her chambermaid, as she is going about some busines, calls to her, saying; Sister, I would faine speake with you. Sir (quoth she) say what you please. You know (quoth he) that I haue long loved your mistres, without obtaining any sauaour: but tell me I pray you, did she neuer speake of me in your hearing? In faith sir (saith she) neuer but well: I dare sweare she wishes you no harme. Before God sister (saith the Gentleman) if you will shew mee some kindnes herein, and do my commendations to your mistres, assuring her of my lone and loyaltie, it shall be woꝝth a new gowne vnto you; meane while take this in earnest, with that he offers her a peece of gold: She then making a lowe curlic, sayth: Sir, I thanks you for your good-

## The Batchelars Banquet.

good will, but I will not take it. By my faith saith he but you shall, and with that he forced it on her, adding these wordes: I pray you let me heare from you to morrow morning. She being glad of such a bootie, hys her home, and tels her mistress how she met with a Gentleman that was in a passing good vaine; and to be short, after some questions bled by her mistress, it appeares to be the very same man whom she would faine intrap. I tell thee (saith she to her mayd) if he be as kind as he is proper, he were worthy to be any womans loue. Beléue me Mistress (saith the maid) his very countenance shewes that he is kind, it seemes that he was onely made for loue, and withall he is wealthie, and thereby able to maintaine her beautie, and her person in bzauerie whom he affects. By this light (saith the mistress) I can get nothing of my husband. The more vnwise you (saith the mayd) to be so viled. Alas quoth she, what should I do? I haue had him so long, that I cannot now let my heart on any other. Tush (quoth the mayd) it is a folly for any woman to set her heart so on any man, for you know they care not how they vlie vs when they are once Lords ouer vs. Beside your husband though hee would, yet cannot maintaine and keepe you according to your degree: but he of whom I spake will furnish and maintaine you gallantly what garments soeuer you will haue: and what colour and fashion so euer you like best, you shall presently haue it, so that there wants nothing else, saue only a quaint excuse to my Maister, making him beléue you had it by some other meanes. By my troth (quoth the Mistress) I know not what to say. Tell Mistress (saith the maid) aduise you well, I haue promist to giue him an answer to morrow morning. Alas (saith the other) what shall we do? Tush Mistress (answers the maid) let me alone: As I go to morrow to the market, I am sure he will watch to méete with me, that he may know what newes, then I will tell him that you will not agré to his desire for feare of discredit: this will giue him a little hope, and so we shall fall into further talke, and I doubt not but to handle the matter well enough. According to promise

A maid fit  
for such a  
mistres.



## The Batchelars Banquet.

mise next morning to market she hires, somewhat more rarely  
 then she was wont, and by the way she meetes with this lustie  
 gallant, who hath waited for her at least three houres, hee  
 hath no sooner spied her, but he presently makes towards her,  
 and at her comming, thus salutes her: Sister, good morrow,  
 what newes I pray, and how doth your faire mistresse? I-  
 faith sir (saith she) she is at home very pensive, and out of pa-  
 tience, I thinke that never any woman had such a frowarde  
 husband. Ah villaine (saith he) the diuell take him. Amen  
 (saith the maide) for both my mistresse and all the servants are  
 wearie with tarrying with him. Out on him slave (saith hee) but  
 I pray you tell me what answer gave your mistres touching  
 my sute? In faith (quoth she) I spake unto her, but shee woulde  
 not agree thereunto, for she is wonderfully afraid to purchase  
 her selfe discredit, & is beside plagued with such a froward and  
 suspicious husband, that although shee were new, & willing,  
 yet could she not, being continually watcht by him, his mother  
 & brethren: I thinke on my conscience vnlesse that it were that  
 she spake to you the other day, the poore woman talkt not with  
 any man these four months, yet shee speaks very often of you,  
 and I am well assured that if she would bend her mind to loue,  
 she would choose you before all men in the world. He being ra-  
 uished with these words, replies thus: Sweete sister, I pray  
 you be my friend herein, and I will alwaies rest at your com-  
 mand. In good faith (saith she) I haue done more for you al-  
 ready then euer I did for any man in my life. And thinke not  
 (saith he) that I will be vnmindfull of your kindnes, but what  
 would you counsell me to doe? I faith sir (saith she) I thinke it  
 best that you should speake with her your selfe, and now you  
 haue an excellent opportunitie, for my maister hath refused to  
 giue her a new gowne, whereat she stoymes not a little, you  
 shall doe well therefore to be to morrow at the Church, & there  
 salute her, telling her bololy your desire: you may also offer her  
 what you thinke good, but I know she will take nothing: mary  
 she will thinke the better of you, knowing thereby your franke  
 & beautiful nature. Oh (saith he) I would she would gladly take  
 that,

## The Batchelars Banquet.

that, which I would gladly bestowe on her. Nay, answers the maid, I know she will not, for you neuer knewe a more honest woman: but I le tell ye, how yee may doe it afterwards: Looks what ye purpose to bestowe on her, you shall deliuer vnto mee, I will doe my best to perswade her to take it, but I cannot assure you that I shall preuaile. Surely sister (saith he) this is very good counsell: herewithall they part, and shee returnes home, laughing to her selfe, which her mistres seeing, demands of her the cause thereof. Mary (saith the maid) this lusty gentleman is all on fire, to morrow he will be at Church, purposing there to speake with you: now must you demeane your selfe wisely, and make very strange of it, but stand not off too much least you dismay him cleane: as you wil not wholly graunt, so must you seede him with some hope. Shee, hauing her lesson thus taught her by her maide, gets her by betimes the next morning, and to the Church shee goes, where this amorous gallat hath awaited for her comming euer since foure a clock. She being set in her pew, makes shew as if she was deuoutly at her prayers, when God tooke her deuotion is bent to the seruice of another Saint: it were worth the noting to see how like an image shee sits: and yet for all her demurenes, she applies all her fine senses, & that full zealously in this new humor of religion. To bee short, hee scales vnto her, sneaking vnto her from the bellrey vnto her pew, and beeing come, greetes her after the amorous order, and from greeting, he saith to courting, wherto she doth in no wise yeeld consent, neither will shee take ought that he offers, yet answers him after such a sort, that he doth thereby assuredly gather that shee loues him, and sticks only for fear of discredit: wherat he is not a little incond, & hauing spent his time to so good purpose, he takes his leaue, & she hauing home to her counsellor, acquaints her what hath passed betwene them, who thereupon takes occasion to say thus: Distresse, I know well that now he longs to speake with me, but at our meeting I will tell him that you will yeelde to nothing, for which I wil faine my selfe very soze: & I wil adde withal, that my master is gone out of towne, and will appoint him



## The Batchelars Banquer.

him to come hither towards the evening, with promise that I will let him in, and conuey him so secretly into your chamber, that you shall know nothing thereof: At what time you must seeme to be highly offended, and if you be wise, you will make him buy his pleasure with some cost, which will cause him to esteeme the more of you: tell him that you will cry out, and then do you call me: by handling him thus, I can assure you, that you shall get more of him, then if you had peelded at the first. All this while I will haue in my keeping that which hee will giue you, for hee hath appointed to deliuer it me to morrowe, and I will make him belieue, that you would by no meanes take it: But when the matter is brought to this passe, then will I make shew to offer you his gift before him, telling you, that he is willing to bestow it on you, to buy you a gowne withall, then must you chide, and seeme to be angry with mee for receiuing it, charging me to deliuer it back againe to him, but be sure I will lay it by safe enough. Well deuised wench (saith the mistres) I am content it shall be so. This plot being thus laide, the craftie wench goes presently to shew out this lolly gallant, whose first word is, What newes? Now in good saith sir (saith she) the matter is no further forward, then if it were yet to begin, yet because I haue medled so farre in it, I wold be loth I should not bring it about, for I feare that she will complaine of me to her husband and friends, but if I could perswade her by any meanes to receiue your gifts, then out of question the matter were dispatcht: and in good saith she try once more, I haue one good helpe, and that is this: my maister (as I tolde you before) will not giue her a new gowne, at which unkindnesse, shee stormes mightily. The hot louer hearing this, giues her presently twentie crownes for her good will, whereupon shee speaks thus: In good saith sir, I knowe not how it commeth to passe, but sure I am, I neuer did so much for any man before as I haue done here- in for you: yee see sir, what danger I haue put my selfe in for your sake, for if my maister should haue any inkling of it, I were vterly vndoone: yet for you I will hazard a little

Better then  
two yeares  
wages, and  
soone got.

## The Batchelars Banquet.

Infras Iarmās  
lips.

a little further: I know she loues you wel, and as good hap is, my maister is not now in towne, if you therefore will bee about the dozes towards six of y<sup>e</sup> clock at night I will let you in, and so conuey you secretly into my mistres Chamber; who doth sleepe very soundly: for you know she is but young, being there I could wish you go to bed to her, and for the rest you neede not (I trust) any tutor: I protest that I know no other meanes for the compassing of this matter, perhaps it will sadge, for it is a great matter, when a louer & his mistresse are both together naked & in the darke, which doth help forward a womans conceipt to y<sup>e</sup> which in the day time perhaps she would hardly graunt. My sweet friend (quoth hee) for this kindnesse my purse shall be at thy command. To be short, night comes, he is there according to promise, whom shee straight conueyes into her mistresse chamber, then he presently vnclothes himself, and steps softly into her bed, and being once in, hee begins to embrace her: hereat she that seemes till then asleepe, starts up on a sodain & with a feareful voice asks who is there? It is I sweete mistresse (saith he) feare nothing. Ah (quoth shee) thinke you to p<sup>er</sup>uail thus? no, no, and wish that shee makes as though shee would rise, & cal her maid, who answers not a word: but alas for pittie like an vnfortunall seruant leaues her at her greatest need, she therefore good woman seeing that she is forsaken, fates with a sigh, ah me, I am betrayed: then beginneth she a stout battell, he vrging his advantage, she faintly resisting, but alas what can a naked woman doe against a resolute louer? there is therefore no other remedy but that at length (poore soule) being out of breath with strutting, she must needs yeeld to the stronger: she would faine haue cryed out (God wot) had it not bene for feare of discredit, for thereby her name might haue bin brought in question, therefore all things considered, she doth vnwillingly God knowes, let him supply her husbands place, garnishing his temple for pure good will with A<sup>d</sup>ons badge. Thus hard she got a new gowne, which her good man refused to giue her, to bleare whole eyes, & to keep him from suspicion, she gets her mother in her husbands sight, to bring home the cloth & giue it her,



### The Batchelars Banquet.

her, as though it were her cost: and least also shee should suspect any thing, she makes her belenee she bought it with the money which shee got by selling odde commodities which her husband knewe not of: But it may be, and oft happens so, that the mother is priuie to the whole matter, and a furtherer thereof: after this gowne she must haue another, and two or threelike imbrothered girdles, and other such costly knackes, which the husband seeing, wil in the end fiewel somewhat, & begin to doubt of his wifes honesty, or that perhaps receiues some aduertisement herrof from a friend or kinsman, for no such matter can be long kept close, but in the end will by some means or other be made knowne and discovered: Then falls her into a frantick vaine of Jealousie, watching his wifes close packing: and for the better finding of it out, hee comes home on a sodaine about midnight, thinking then to discouer all, and yet perhaps may misse his purpose. Another time comming in at vnawares hee seeth something that he likes not, and then in a furie falls on railing, but be sure that she answers him home, not yeelding an inch vnto him: for besides the advantage of the sight which is waged by her owne trustie weapon (her tongue I meane) she knowing wel that she is of better birth, hits him in the teeth therewith, & threatens him to tel her friends how hardly he doth vse her. To bee short, the poore man shall neuer haue good day with her, but either with thought of her incontinencie, or if he speake to her, he is downe with scolding lies, and despised of his owne seruants, his state runnes to ruine, his wealth decays, his body dries vp, and weares away with griefe: he growes desperate and carelesse, thus is he plunged in Lobs pound, wearied in a world of discontent, wherein notwithstanding he takes delight, having no desire to change his state, but rather if he were out, and knewe what would follow, yet would he neuer rest till he had gotten in againe, there to spend and end (as now he must) his life in griefe and misery.

## The Bachelers Banquet.

### CHAP. VI.

The humor of a woman that striues to  
master her husband.

**T**he next humor whereunto a woman is addicted, is, when her husband hath got a faire young wife, who is proper & fine, in whom he takes great delight, yet perhaps she is bent altogether to crosse, & thwart: her man being of a kind & mild nature loving her intirely, & he maintaines her as well as he can, notwithstanding her frowardnes: It may be also that she hath care of his credit and honesty, and doth abhorre such lewdnesse, as she of whome wee spake before did be, yet hath shee neuerthelesse an extreame desire of soueraignie (which is knowne a common fault amongst women) and to be her husbands commaunder, and a busie medler in his matters: be he a Judge, a Nobleman or Gentleman, shee will take vpon her to giue sentence, and answer suiters, and whatsoener shee doth hee must stand to it. This is, I say, a generall imperfection of women, bee they neuer so honest, neuer so kindly bles, and haue neuer so much wealth and ease, to strue for the breeches, and bee in odde contrarie humours, of purpose to keepe her husband in continuall thought and care how to please her. Hee gets him by betimes in the morning leaving her in bed to take her ease, while he sturres about the house and dispatcheth his businesse, looks to the seruants that they loyter not, causeth dinner to be made readie, the cloath to be laide, and when all thinges are readie, he sends one to desire her to come downe, who brings back answere that she is not disposed to dine. He (saith he?) I will neither sit downe, nor eate a bit till she be here. He receiuing his second message by his maide, or perhaps by one of his children, replies thus: go tell him againe I wil not dine to day. He hearing this, is not yet satisfied, but sends likewise the third time, and in the end goes himselfe, and thus begins. Now now, what ayles you wife, that you will eate no meate?



### The Batchelars Banquet.

meate? hereto she answers not a word. The poore man marvels to see her in this melancholy dumpe, (although perhaps she hath plaide this pageant many times befoze) and bleth all entreatie he may, to know of her the cause therof: but in vaine, for indeed there is no cause at all, but onely a meere mockery: Sometimes she will persist so obstinately in this humor, that for all the persuasions and kindnesse that he can vse, shee will not come. Sometimes it may be she will, and then hee must leade her by the hand like a bride, and set her chaire readie for her, meane while it is so long befoze he can get her down, that the meate is colde when it comes to the table. Being set, she will not eat one bit, and hee seeing that (like a kinde Ass) will fast like Wolfe: whereat shee smiles inwardly, having brought him so to her bowe, first in crossing him, then in making him to fast from dinner: wherein (to say the truth) she hath reason, for what needs a woman to seeke his fauoure, who doth already loue her, and shew her all the kindnes that hee can. Sometimes the good man rtying abroad about his businesse, meetes with two or thzee of his friends, with whom perhaps hee hath some dealings, and hath bene long acquainted with them: It may be also that he invites them home to his house, as one friend will do to another, and sends his man befoze to his wife to make all things ready in y<sup>e</sup> best sort that she can for their entertainment: the poore serving man gallops in such hast, that both himselfe & his horse is all on a sweate, when he comes home hee doth his arrand to his mistres, telling her withal that the guests which his master brings are men of good account. Now by my faith (saith she) I wil not meddle in it, he thinks delike that I haue nothing els to doe, but vudge about to prepare banquets for his companions, he should haue come himself to a vengeance, & why did he not? Forsooth (saith the seruant) I know not, but thus he had me tel you. So too (saith she) you are a knaue that medles in moze matters thē you haue thank for. The poore fellow bearing this holds his peace, shee in a fume flings vp into her chamber, and which is worse, sendes out her seruantes, some one way, some another: as for her maydes, they haue their

## The Bachelars Banquet.

Oh fetch the  
aqua vitæ  
bottle quickly.

their lesson taught them well enough, knowing by custome  
how to behaue themselves to wearie their master: well, hee  
comes home to his aforesaid friends, calls presently for some of  
his seruants: but one of the maides make answer, of whome  
he demaunds whether all things bee readie: In good faith sir  
my mistres is verie sick, & here is no body els can do any thing:  
with that he being angry, leads his friends into the hal, or some  
other place according to his estate, where hee findes neither fire  
made, nor cloath laid. Judge then in what a taking he is, al-  
though it may be that his friendes perceiued by the sending of  
his man, that his commandements were not of such force as  
an act of parliament. The good man being ashamed calls and  
gapes, first for one man then for another, & yet for all this there  
comes none, except it bee the scullion or some chare wo-  
man, that doth vse his house, whome his wife hath left there  
of purpose, because shee knewe they could serue to doe no-  
thing. Being herewith not a little mooued, by hee goes into  
his wines chamber, and thus speaks vnto her: Gods precious  
woman, why haue ye not done as I wold ye? Why (saith shee)  
you appoint so many things to be done that I know not what  
to doe. Befoze God (saith hee) & with that scratches his head,  
you haue done mee a greater displeasure then you think: these  
are the dearest friends that I haue, and now here is nothing  
to set before them. Why (quoth shee) what would you haue  
me to doe? I wis if you cast your cards well, you shall finde  
that we haue no neede to make banquets: I would to God you  
were wiser, but sith you will needes bee so lusty, euengoe  
throughe with it your selfe on Gods name, for Ile not meddle  
with it. But what the diuell ment ye (saith he) to sende all the  
seruants abroad? Why (quoth shee) what did I know that you  
should neede them now: yet did I knowe it well enough, and  
had of purpose sent them forth on seruile arrands, the more  
to anger and despight him: who seeing that hee can preuaile  
nothing, giues ouer talking to her, and gets him downe in a  
bitter chafe: for it may bee that his guestes bee of such ac-  
count, and he so much beholding vnto them, that he had rather  
haue



### The Batchelars Banquet.

have spent a hundred crownes then it should so have fallen out.  
But she cares not a whit being well assured, that howsoever  
she thwarts him, hee will hold his hands, and in scolding shee  
knowes her selfe to be the better. To her hozt, the poore man  
being vexed, with shame and anger, runnes vp and downe the  
house, gets as many of his servants together as hee can: At  
his prouision hee but slender at home, hee sendes presently a-  
broad, in the meane while hee calles for a cleane towell, the  
best table cloath, and wrought napkins. But the maid answers  
him that hee can haue none. Then vp to his wife goes hee a-  
gaine, and tels her that his friends doe intreat her to come  
downe and beare them companie, shewing her what a shame  
it is, and how discourteously they will take it if she come not:  
And finally, hee vseth all the fairest speeches that hee can to haue  
her come, and to welcome and entertaine them for his credits  
sake. Nay in faith (quoth she) I will not come, they are too  
great states for my companie, and no doubt they would scoone  
a poore woman as I am. Ye may bee sure will goe, but in such  
foze, and with such a countenance, that it had bene better for  
him she had not come at all, for his friends will somewhat per-  
ceiue by her lookes, and gesture, that howsoever they be wel-  
come to the good-man, hee had rather haue their roome then  
their company. But if she refuse to come (as it is the moze like-  
ly) then will hee aske her for the best towell, table-cloth and  
napkins. Napkins (quoth she) as though those that be abroad  
alreadie be not good enough for greater and better men then  
they are: when my brother or any of my kinsmen come, which  
are I wis their equals in every respect, they can be content  
to be serued with them: but were these your guests neuer so  
great, yet could I not now fulfill your request, though my life  
should lie on it: for since morning I haue lost my keyes of the Oh lyer, lyer.  
great chest where all the linnen lies: I pray you bid the maid  
looke for them, for in good crutch I know not what I haue done  
with them, and no maruell, for I haue so much to doe, that I  
know not how to bestur my selfe: well I wote, I haue spoyled  
my selfe with continuall care and trouble.

### The Batchelers Banquet.

Now in good faith (quoth he) you haue dressed me fairely, but it is no matter: Before God ile breake open the chest. Now surely then (quoth she) you shall doe a great act, I would faine see you doe it, I would for my part you would breake all the chestes in the house. The poore man hearing her in these termes, knowes not well what to doe, but takes that which he next lightes on, and therefore shifts as well as he can: he causeth his guesstes to sit downe at the table, and because the beere then a bzoach is on cile, & therefore not verie good, he bids one of the seruants bzoach anew barrell & fill some fresh drinke, but then there is neither tap nor spigget to bee found, for his wife of purpose hath hidden them out of the way. Towards the end of the dinner he calls for cheese, and fruite, but there is none in the house, so that he is faine to send to the neighbours for the same, or else he utterly desicure: meane while his boy being at the table with the guesstes, at last tels them how his mistresse faimes her selfe sicke, because she is not pleased with their manners coming. Well when bed time comes, he can get no clean sheetes nor pillow-beers, because forsooth the keyes are lost, so that they must be content to lie in those that be foule, and haue bene long layne in. The next morning they get them gone betimes, seeing by the good wines countenance that they are nothing welcome. By the way their lackies tell them what the Gentlemans boy reported, wherat they laughe hartily, yet find themselves agreed, vowing neuer to be his guest any more. The husband also, getting him vp betimes in the morning, goes presently to his wife, and thus begins: My Iesus wife I muse what you meane to vse me thus. I know not how to liue with you. Then she replies saying: Now God for his mercie, am I so troublesome? God wot I am euery day (poore soule) troubled with keeping your hogs, your geese, your chickens, I must card, I must spin, and continually keepe the house, looke to the seruants, & neuer sit still, but copping vp & downe to shorten my daies, and make me die before my time, and yet I cannot haue one howers rest, or quietnes with you, but you are alwaies bawling, & do nothing your selfe, but spend & wast your goods  
and



### The Batchelars Banquet.

and mine with odde companions. What odde companions (saith he?) as though you know not that these are such men, as can either much further, or much hinder me: It is a signe that you deale very well, that you must stand in distrust of such persons. Whereupon she takes occasion to rayle & scolde all the day long, the man being wearied with her walwardnesse, & age (being hastened with griefe & sorrow) both bravares ouertake him. Briefly he is in euery respect wretched: but such is his folly, that he reckons his paines pleasures, and would not though he might be againe at liberty, out of Lobs pound, or if he would it is now too late, for he must of force continue there in care, thoght and misery, til death make an end of him and them together.

### CHAP. VII.

#### The humor of a couetous minded woman.

**T**he next humor belonging to a woman, is, when the husband is matched to a modest ciuill woman, who is nothing giuen to that thwarting & crossing humor whereof I spake last. But be she good or bad, this is a generall rule many wiues hold and stedfastly beleene, that their owne husbands are the worst of al others. It oft happens that when they match together they are both young, and entertaine each other with mutuall delights, so much as may be, for a year or two, or longer, til the vigor of youth grow cold. But y woman droopes not so soone as y man, the reason whereof is, because shee takes no care, thought and griefe, breakes not her sleepe, and troubles not her head as he doth, but doth wholly additt her thoughtes to pleasure and solace. I deny not that when a woman is with child, she findes many times great paines, and is oft verie ill at ease, and at the time of her deliuerance, she is for the most part, not onely in exceeding paine, but also in no lesse danger of death: But all this is nothing to the husbands troubles, on whose hands alone restes the whole charge, and waight of

### The Batchelars Banquet.

maintaining the house, and dispatching all matters, which is oftentimes intangled so with controuersie, and so thwarted with crosse fortune, that the poore man is tormentted with all variation of mind: Being thus wearied, and as it were woyn away with continuall griefe, troublous cogitations, toyle and trauell, haue no mind on any other pleasure: whereas shee on the other side is as lustie as euer shee was: meane while his stock decays, and his state growes worse and worse; and as that diminisheth, so must hee perforce shorten her allowance, & maintenance, which is almost as great a cosine to her, as the former. You may be well assured, that this change in him makes her also change her countenance; from mirth and chearfulness, to lowering melancholie, seeking occasions of disagreements, & vse them in such sort, that the former loue & kindnes was not so great, as are now their brails, iarres, & discordes. It doth also oftentimes happen, that the womā by this means wastes and consumes all, giuing lowbly away her husbands goods, which he with great paines & cares hath gotten. The good man be goes euery way as neere as he can, and warlike containes himselfe within his bounds, casting vp what his yearely reuenues are, or what his gaine is by his profession, be it merchandize or other, & then what his expenses be, which finding greater then his comming in, he begins to bite the lip & becomes very penurie: his wife & he being afterward priuate together in their chamber, hee speakes thereof vnto her in this manner: In saith wife, I marvel much how it comes to passe that our goods goe away thus, I know not how: I am sure I am as careful as a man can be, I can not find in my heart to bestow a new coate on my selfe, and all to save money. By my troth husband saith she, I do as much marvel at it as you: I am sure for my owne part, that I goe as neere in house keeping euery way as I can. To hee short, the poore man not doubting his wife, nor suspecting her ill carriage, after long care and thought concludes, that the cause thereof is his owne ill fortune, which keepe him downe, & crosseth all his actions with contrary successe, but it may be that in processe of time, some friend



### The Batchelars Banquet.

friend of his being more cleare-sighted in the matter, perceiving all goes not well, doth priuily informe him thereof, who being astonished at his report, gets him home with a heauie countenance, which the wife seeing, & knowing her self guiltie, begins presently to doubt & worst, & perhaps guesseth shrewdly at the authors thereof: but howsoeuer, she will take such an order, that she will be sure to escape the hunt well enough. The good man will not presently make any words hereof vnto her, but defer it awhile, and try in the meane time, whether he can of himselfe gather any further likelihood, for which purpose he will tell her, that he must needs ride some ten or twelue miles out of towne, about some earnest busines. Good faith husband (saith she) I had rather you should send your man, and stay at home your selfe. Not so wise (saith he) but I will be at home againe my selfe within these three or foure dayes. Having told her this tale, hee makes as though hee tooke his iourney, but doth priuily lye in ambush in such a place, where hee may know whatsoeuer is done in the house: but shee smelling his wile sends word to her sweet heart, that he do not come in any case, and all the time of his dissembled absence, she carries her selfe that it giues no likelihood of suspicion: which the silly man seeing, comes out of his ambush, enters his house, making as if then he were returned from his iourney: and whereas before he looked, now he shewes a cheerefull countenance, being verily perswaded, that his friends report is a meere lye, and that he thinks so much the rather, because she doth at his comming run to meet him, with such shew of loue, & doth so embrace and kisse him, that it seemes impossible so kind a creature should play false: but long after being in bed together, he thus speaks to her: Wife, I haue heard certaine words that like mee not. Good faith husband (saith shee) I know not what is the cause thereof: I haue noted, this great while, that you haue bene very pensiue, and was afraid that you had had some great losse, or that some of your friends had bene kild, or taken by the Spaniards. No (saith he) that is not the matter, but a thing which greenes me more then any such matter can do. Now God for

## The Batchelars Banquet.

his mercy (quoth she) I pray you husband let me know what it is. Mary wife (saith he) a friend of mine told me that you kept company with R. R. the veriest ruffen in all the towne, & a many other matters he told me of you. Hereat she crossing her selfe in token of admiration (though smiling inwardly) replies thus: Deere husband if this be all, then I pray you giue ouer your pensiuenes: I would to God I were as free from all other sins, as I am from that: then laying one hand on her head, she thus proceeds: I will not sweare any thing touching him, but I would the deuill had all that is vnder my hand, if I euer touched any mans mouth sauing yours, or some of our friends & kinsmen, or such at least as you haue commanded me. Ha, ha, is this the matter? In troth I am glad y<sup>e</sup> you haue told me, I had verily thoght it had bin some greater matter, but I know wel enough whereupon these speeches grew, & I would that you did likewise know, what moued him to speake the, I know you would not a little maruel, because he hath alwaies professed such friendship towards you. In good faith I am nothing soye y<sup>e</sup> he hath awaked the sleeping dog. What mean you by that word (quoth he?) Nay (quoth she) be not desirous to know it, you shall know it soone enough some other time. Birlady (saith he) ile know it now. By my troth husband (saith she) I was oft wonderfully angry whē you brought him in hither, yet I forbore to speake of it, because I saw you loued him so well. But speake now (saith he) & tel me what y<sup>e</sup> matter is? Nay nay (quoth she) it skils not greatly. Go to wife (saith the good man) tel me, for I will know it. Then takes she him about the neck, & sweetly kissing him, saith thus: Ah my deere husband, what villaines are these y<sup>e</sup> would seeme to abuse you, whom I honour & loue aboue al mē in the world. Tel wife (saith he) I pray thee tel me the man that so misuseth vs. In troth (quoth she) that vile dissembling traitor, that flattering tell tale, that put this bad report in your eares, whom you esteeme so much, reposing such great confidence in him, he is the man & none but he that hath earnestly vrged me any time these two years to comit folly with him, but God I praise him hath giuen me grace both to refuse him, and his offers,

Oh braue dissembler.

Almost as bad as Iudas kisses

The diuel take the lycr.



## The Batchelars Banquet.

offers, although I were continually troubled and importuned by him: It was when you thought hee came hither so often for your sake, it was for this cause, for neuer a time that hee came, but he was in hand with me to obtaine his filthy desire, till in the end I threatened to tell you of it, but I was loath to doe it, fearing to breed a quarrell betweene you, so long as I was sure to keepe him from doing you herein any iniurie: besides, I had still a good hope, that he would at length giue ouer, It was it was no fault of his that he spew not. Gods for my life (saith the good man) being in a great rage, what a treacherous villaine is this? I would neuer haue suspected any such matter in him, for I durst haue put my life in his hands. By this light, husband (saith she) if euer hee come more within the doores, or if euer I may know that you haue any talke with him, Ile keepe house no longer with you. Ah deere husband, and with that shee clips and coils him againe about the neck, should I be so disloyall as to abuse him in this sort? so sweete, so amiable, and so kinde a man, who lets mee haue my will in all things? God forbid I should liue so long to become a strumpet now. But for Gods sake husband forbid him your house, with whome this kinde hath flattered mee withall, yet I would the deuil had mee if euer hee made such motion to mee, neuertheless by Gods grace hee shall not come henceforth in any place where I am, and with that shee begins to weepe, and hee (kinde foole) both appease and comfort her, promising and swearing, that hee will doe as shee will haue him, save onely that hee will not forbid him his house, with whose companie the other had charged her, and withall hee vowes neuer to beleene any more of these reports, nor so much as to harken to any such tales againe, notwithstanding hee still feelles a scruple of suspicion in his conscience: Within a while hee begins to fall at defiance with his honest friende, who informed him of his wines wantonnesse, and hee seemes to be so deeply befotted with her loue, that you would say hee were transformed without inchantment, into Acleons shape:

Thus is he  
board through  
the nose with  
a cushion.

As kind as a  
Sea-crab sea-  
zing on a  
dead carrion.

Amen.

his

### The Batchelers Banquet.

**Great reason.** his charge of household still increaseth, he hath many children, and is perplexed on euery side : but his wife followes her pleasure farre moze then befoze, for though it be neuer so openly knowne, yet will no man tell him thereof, becaus they know that he will not beleue them (and which is moze ridiculous) he that abuseth him most, shall be best welcome vnto him of any. To be short, age will ouertake him, and perhaps pueritie, from the which he shall neuer be able to raise himselfe. Loe here the great good and pleasure, that he hath gotten by entering into Lobs pound, euery man mockes him, some say it is pittie because he is an honest man: others say it is not a matter to be sorrowed for, such it is the common rule of such. They of the better sort will scozne his company: thus liues he in paine, griefe and disgrace, which he takes for great pleasure, and therein will continue till death cut him off.

### CHAP. VIII.

The humour of a woman that still desires to  
be gadding abroad.

**T**He next humoꝛ of a woman, is, when the husband hath bene in Lobs pound some time or sixe yeares, part wherof he hath spent in such pleasures as wenlocke doth at the first affoord, but now the date of these delights is out, he hath perhaps some three or foure children, but his wife is now big againe, and a great deale worse of this child then she was of any other. Wherent the poore man grieues not a little, who takes great paines to get her that which she longer for: well, the time of her lying downe drawes neere, & she is wonderfully out of temper, so that it is greatly feared that she will hardly escape. The fals he on his knees & prais deuoutly for his wife, who soone after is brought to bed, wherefoze he is not a little second, making sure account that God hath hard his prayers. The gossip, his women, and neighbours, come in troupes to visit and reioyce for her safe deliuey. She for her part wants no good cherishing, wherby she recouers her strength, and is as fresh and lusty as euer she was.

After



## The Batchelars Banquet.

After her churcking, she invited by some of her neighbours who also invites five or six others of her neighbours and friends, who is received & feasted with all kindnes, which banquet doth perhaps cost her husband more then would have kept the house a whole fortnight: Amongst other she propounds a question, & makes a match to goe altogether to a certaine Faire which will be within ten daies at such a place, to the which place they shall have a most brave and pleasant iourney by reason of the faire weather, for they will alwaies conclude such an agreement in some of the best seasons of the yeare, & she takes upon her to make this motion chiefly in regard of her gossip which was lately brought abed, that she may after her long pain and travaille somewhat recreate & refresh her selfe. But she answers her with thanks for her good will, saying she knowes not how to get leave of her husband. What (saith the other) that is the least matter of a thousand. Tush gossip (saith another) stand not on that, we will all goe and be merry, and we will haue with vs my gossip G. T. my cousin H. S. though perhaps hee be nothing kind to her, but this is their ordinary phrase, & they undertake this iourney, because they cannot so well obtaine their purposes at home, being too neere their husbands noses. After this agreement, home she comes with a heauie countenance, the good man asketh what she aileth. Parry quoth she, the child is very ill at ease (though he were neuer in better health since he was borne) his flesh burnes as though it were fire, and as the nurse tels me, hee hath refused the dugges these two daies, although she durst not say so much till now. He hearing this, and thinking it true, is not a litle sorry, goes presently to see his child & weepes for pittie. Well, night comes, to bed they goe, & then she fetching a sigh, begins thus: Husband, I see you haue forgotten me. How meane you that saith he? Mary (quoth she) do you not remember that when I was in childbed you said, that if it pleased God that I escaped, I should goe to such a Faire with my gossips & neighbours to make merry, & cheere by my self, but now I heare you not talk of it. In troth wife (saith he) my head is troubled with so many matters, and such a deale of busines, that I haue no leasure to thinke on any thing els: but

### The Batchelars Banquet.

there is no time past yet, the faire wil not be this fortnight. By my truth (quoth she) I shal not be well vnles I goe. Wel wife (saith he) content your selfe, for if I can by any meanes get so much moneye ye shall goe: you know it is not little that we shall spend there: yea more I wis then will be my ease to lay out. Good Christ (quoth she) is it now come to that? you promise me absolutely without either ifs or ands: before God I will goe whether you will or no: for there goes my mother, my gossip T. my cosen B. and my cosen R. and his wife. If you will not let me goe with them, I know not with whome you will let me goe. He, hearing her thus willfull, thinkes it best for his owne quietnes to let her goe, though he straine his purse somewhat the more. The time comes, he hyers horses, buies her a new riding gowne, & doth furnish her according to her minde, peradventure there goes in their company a lustie gallant, that will frolick it by the way on her husbands cost, for his purse must pay for all. It may be he will goe himselfe, because hee hath neuer a man, nor els should spare him from his worke. But then is the poore man notably perplexed, for shee will of purpose trouble him for enery trifle, more then she would doe to another, because it doth her good to make a drudge of him, and so much the rather, that he may not afterward haue any desire to goe abroad with her againe: sometimes her stirrop is too long: sometimes too short, and hee must still lichte to make it fit: sometimes shee will weare her cloake, sometimes not, and then he must cary it: then findes she fault with her horses trotting, which makes her sicke, and then she will lichte & walke on foote, leaving him to lead her horses: within a while after they come to a water, then must he be troubled to helpe her vp againe: Sometimes she can eate nothing that is in the Inn, then must hee being wearie all day with riding, trudge vp and downe the towne to find something that will fit her stomack, all which notwithstanding, she will not be quiet: and not she onely, but her gossips also, will be bobbing & quibbling him, saying that he is not worthe to bee a womans man, but he is so inured to these Tanglings, that he cares not for all their



## The Batchelars Banquet.

their words: Well, at length to the faire they come, and then must he play the squier in going befoze her, making so much roome for them as he can, when there is any throng or presse of people, being very chary of his wife, least she should be hurt or annoyed by thrusting. There mooves he like a horse, & sweates like a bull, yet cannot all this please her: Some dames of the company, which are more flush in crownes then her good man, bestowes money on gold rings, hats, silk girdles, Jewels, or some such toys, yea costly toys, which she no sooner sees, but presently she is on fire, vntill she haue the like: Then must hee herein content her if he loue his owne ease, and haue he money or not, some shift he must make to satisfie her humors. Well now imagine them going homewards, & thinke his paine & trouble no lesse, then it was coming forth, her horse perhaps doth foader much, or trots too hard, which is peraduenture by reason of a naile in his foote, or some other mischance. Then must hee perforce buy, or hyre another horse, and if he haue not money enough to do so, then must he let her ride on his, & he trot by her side like a lackey. By the way she will aske for twenty things, for milke, because she cannot away with their drinke, for pears, plums, & cherries: when they come neere a towne, he must run befoze to choose out the best Anne: euer and anon as she rides, she will of purpose let fall her wand, her maske, her gloues, or some thing els for him to take vp, because she will not haue him idle: when they are come home, she will for a fortnight together doe nothing els then gad vp and downe amongst her gossipys, to tell them how many gay and strange thinges shee hath seene, all that hath passed by the way in going and coming, but especially of her good man, whom she will be sure to blame, saying that he did her no pleasure in the world, & that (she pooze soule) being sicke and wearie, could not get him to helpe her, or to prouide any thing for her that she liked: and finally that he had no more care of her, then if she had beene a meere stranger. But hee pooze sot finding, at his returne, all thinges out of order, is not a little troubled to set them in frame againe, and toyles exceedingly at his laboure, that

### The Batchelars Banquet.

he may recover his charges which he hath bene at in this tour-  
ny. But she what for gossiping, for pride & idleness wil not let  
her hands to any thing, and yet if ought goe well, she wil say it  
was through her heedfulness, & good huswiferie: If otherwise,  
then will she scold, and lay the fault thereof on him, although it  
be her owne doings. To be short, having thus gotten a vaine  
of gadding, she will neuer leave it, and hereby the poore man  
will be vterly spoiled: for both his substance shall be wasted, his  
limbes through labour sild with aches, his feete with the gout,  
and age comes on him before his time, yet as though this were  
not euil enough, she wil be continually brawling, scolding and  
complaining, how she is broken through child-bearing. Thus  
is the silly man by to the ears in Lobs pound, heeing on each  
side beset with care and trouble, which he takes for pleasure,  
and therein languish whiles he liues.

### CHAP. IX.

The humour of a curst queane married  
to a froward husband.

**T**he next humoz that is incident to a woman, is when the  
husband hauing entred very young into Lobs pound,  
and there fettered himself by his too much folly, for a vaine hope  
of ticklish delights which lasted but for a yeere or two, hath  
matched himselfe with a very froward and peruerse woman (of  
which sort there are too many) whose whole desire is to be mis-  
tresse and to weare the breeches, or at least to beare as great a  
sway as himselfe. But he being craftie, & methal crabbed, will  
in no wise suffer this vsurped soueraignty, but in sundrie  
maners withstands it. And there hath bene great stir & argu-  
ing about this matter betweene themselves, & now and then  
some battels: but do she what she can either with her tongue or  
handes, notwithstanding their long controuersie, which both  
perhaps lasted at the least these twenty yeares, he is still victo-  
rious, and holds his right: but you must thinke that his striking  
for



### The Batchelars Banquet.

for it all this while, hath bin no small trouble & vexation vnto him, beside all other aforesaid euils; all which, or part therof he hath likewise endured: well, to be short, he hath perchance three or foure children all married, and by reason of the great paines and trauell that hee hath taken in bringing them vp, prouiding them portions, mayntaining his wife, encreasing his stock, or at least keeping it from being diminished, and liuing with credit amongst his neighbours: At last it may be hee hath gotten the goute, or some other dangerous disease, and withall is growne old, and thereby feeble, so that being set he can hardly rise, though an ache that he hath got in his armes or his legs: Then is their long warre come to an end, and the case (as Ployden sayth) cleane altered, for his wife being younger then hee, and as frolick as euer shee was, will now bee sure to haue her owne will in despight of his beard: heereby the poore man, which hath maintained the combate so long, is now vtterlie put downe: his owne children, which before hee kept in awe well enough, will now take heed to themselves, and if hee repproue them for their leudnesse and disobedience, shee will maintaine them against him to his teeth, which must needs bee a great griefe vnto him. But besides all this, he is in doubt of his seruantes, for they likewise neglect their former duetie, and leane altogether to their mistres: so that hee poore man, which now by reason of his sickness, and feeblenes of body, hath more neede of attendance than euer he had, shall haue very little or none at all, for though he be as wise and as carefull as euer he was, yet sith hee cannot stirre to followe them as hee was wont, they contemne, and make no more reckoning of him, then if hee were a meere foole. Then peraduenture his eldest sonne thinking that his father liues too long, will take vpon him to guide the house, and disposing all things at his pleasure, as if his father were become an innocent, and could no longer looke to things as hee was wont, iudge you whether the good man seeing himselfe thus vled by his wife, children, and seruantes, bee greeued or not. If he purpose to make his Will,

### The Batchelars Banquet.

they will seeke all meanes to keepe him from doing it, because they heare an inkling, that he will bestowe somewhat on the Parish, or will not bequeath his wife so much as she would haue: To be short, that they may make an end of him the sooner, they will many times leave him in his chamber halfe a day and more, without meate, fier, or ought else, not one of them comming to see what hee wants, or to do him any seruice: his wife is wearie of him by reason of his spitting, coughing, and groaning: All the loue and kindnesse, which he had in former times shewed vnto her, is quite forgotten: but his strife for superiortie, and his crabbednesse towards her (when she had iustly mooued him) this she can still as well remember, as when it was first doone: neither will she spare to prate thereof to her neighbors, telling them that he hath bin a bad man, and that she hath led such a life with him, that if she had not bene a woman of great patience, she could neuer haue endured to keepe house with so crabbed a churle: She will likewise boldly reproach, and twit him in the teeth with those former matters, for it doth shrewdly stick in her stomach, that she could not till now be mistres. But he that was wont to charme her tongue, and keepe her vnder, who, seeing him now in his distresse and weaknesse, takes aduantage, and continues his bad vsage, seeing also his children, which should feare and reuerence him, taking part with their mother, being taught and set on by her, seeing this (I say) and being no lesse angry then grieved, hee calls some of them in a rage, and when they are come before him, thus begins he to his wife. Wife, you are she whome by the lawes both of God and man, I should loue and esteeme more then any thing else in the world: and you on the other side should beare the like affection to me: but whether you doe so or not, I referre it to your owne conscience, I tell you I am not well pleased with your vsing of me thus: I thinke you take me still for the Master of the house as before you haue done, but whether you thinke so or not, be sure I will bee Master while I liue, yet (you I thanke you) doe vse me, and account of me in very slight maner: I haue alwaies loued you well, ne-  
uer



### The Batchelars Banquet.

uer suffered you to lack that which was meete: I haue in like  
sort loued, and also maintained your children and mine accor-  
ding to my degree, and now both you and they doe verie kindly  
acquitte me. **Why** (saith she) what would you haue vs doe? **We**  
do the best that we can, but you cannot tel your selfe what you  
would haue? The better we vse you, and the more wee tend  
you, the worse you are: But you were neuer other, alwaies  
brawling, and neuer quiet, neuer pleased full nor fasting: I  
thinke neuer woman was so long troubled with a crooked  
Dowle as I haue bin. **At name** (saith he) leaue these wordes I  
pray you, then turning to his eldest sonne, he saide: Sonne, I  
haue marveld at your behatiour of late toward me, and I tell  
you I am not wel pleased therewith: you are my eldest, and  
shall be mine heire, if you behaue your selfe as a childe ought  
to doe; But you begin already to take state vpon you, and to  
dispose of my goods at your pleasure: I would not wish you  
to be so forward, but rather while I liue, to serue and obey me,  
as it becomes you to doe: I haue bene no bad father vnto you,  
I haue nothing impaired or diminished, but increased that  
which was left mee by my father, which if you doe your du-  
tie to mee (as I did mee to him) I will leaue to you after my  
decease as hee left to mee: but if you continue in your Sub-  
bornesse and disobedience, before God I sweare, I will  
not bestowe one penny or crosse vpon thee. Heere his wife  
begins againe to thwart him: **Why**, what would you haue  
him doe? It is impossible for any one to please you; hee shall  
haue enough to doe that shall alwaies tend you: **Twis** it is  
high time that you and I were both in heauen, you know not  
your selfe: what would you haue? I maruell what you ayle.  
**Well**, well, (saith he) I pray you be quiet, doe not main-  
taine him thus against mee, but it is alwaies your order,  
After this, the mother and sonne departing, consult together,  
and conclude, that hee is become a childe againe, and be-  
cause hee hath threated to disinherit them, they resolute  
that no man shall be suffered to come and speake with him: his  
sonne

### The Batchelars Banquet.

sonne takes vpon him more then before, being borne out by his mother, who together with him, makes every one beliene that the poore man is become childish, and that he hath lost both his sense & memorie. If any of his honest friends & former acquaintance, which were wont to resort to him, come now to aske for him, his wife will thus answer the, Alas he is not to be spoken with; and when he demands the cause thereof, doubting he is dangerously sick, a good neighbor (quoth she) he is become an innocent, he is euen a child againe, so that I poore soule must guide all the house, & take the whole charge of all things vpon me, hauing none to help me, but God be praised for all. In good faith saith the other, I am verie soye to heare this, and doe much maruaile at it, for it is not long since I sawe him, and spoke with him, and then he was in as good memorie, & spake with as good sense and reason as ener hee did before. In troth (saith she) he is now as I tell yee. Thus doth she wrong and slander the poore man, which hath alwaies liued in good creyt, and kept his house in very good order: but you may be well assured, that hee seeing himselfe in his age thus despised and injured, and being not able to remedy himselfe, nor stirre without helpe from the place where hee is, therby to acquaint his friends therewith, which might in his behalfe redresse it, is not a little grieved, vexed and tormented in his mind with sorrow and anger, so that it is a meruaile that he falles not into despaire; for it is enough to make a Satyr impatient to be vled thus by those which should obey, serue, and honour him. And in my opinion this is one of the greatest cruelties that any man can feele: such is the issue of his great haste and extreame desire to be in Lobs pound, where hee must now remaine perforce till death doe end at once both his life, and languishing.

CHAP.



## The batchelers banquet.

### CHAP. XIII.

The humor of a woman giuen to al kind  
of pleasures.

**A** nother humor incident to a woman by nature is, when she husband, thinking that wedlock was of al estates the happiest, and altogether replenished with delight and pleasure, because he saw some of his friends, who so; a whil after they were married were very chearefull and iocund, neuer ceaseth toiling & turmoiling himself til he haue gotten into Lobs pound, wherein he is presently caught fast like a bird in a net so; this comparison if we do examine the particulars thereof, doth very fitly resemble his estate. The silly birds which flye from tree to tree & from field to field to seeke meat, when they see a great deale of corne spilt one the ground, thinke themselves well apaid, and without any feare comethither to feede thereon, picking on the graines of corn, but alas they are deceiued, for on a sodaine the net is drawne, and they are all fast tide by the leges, and thence carried in a sack or panio; one vpon another to the fowlers house, then coopt vp in a Cage. Oh howe happy would they thinke themselves, if they were againe at their so;mer liberty to flye whether they list, but they wish to late: yet were this all the euill that they should endure, it were well, but (which is worse) they shal some after haue their necks working off, and their little bodies spitted, to be made mea; for men to eat. But they are herein more simple then birds, for they being fast in Lobs pound, are so besotted with th;ir owne sorowes, that they haue no power to free themselves, so likewise they haue no will to doe it. But to procede, the wife not louing her husband, for some defect which is in him, th;it she may haue some collo; for that she doth, makes her mother and other friendes, which blame her so; it, believe, that her husband is bewitched, and by reason of some so;cery, made so; the most part impotent, hereupon shee complaines of her ill fortune,

## The batchelers banquet.

tune, resembling it to thof, which hauing the cup at their no-  
fes, cannot drinke: meane while ſhe hath a ſwarte hart in a  
corner, who is not bewitched, who bleſſeth her her company ſo  
long, and with ſo little heed, that in the end her husband per-  
ceiues it, and falling into the vaine of iealouſſie, beates her  
wel fauordely, and keepes a ſoule ſtirre both with blowes and  
words, ſo that ſhe not liking his blage, giues him the ſlip, but  
then is he cleane out of patience, and ſo husbands in this ta-  
king are ſo mad, that they neuer lin ſeeking them, and wold  
glue halfe they are worth to find her againe, who hauing thus  
plaſt her pagient, and ſeeing her husbands humor, compacte  
with her mother, whoſe good will ſhe will be ſure to get by  
otwe meanes or other, (whereas at the firſt ſhe wil perhaps  
thinke haroly of her departure from her husband:) ſhe doth I  
ſaye ſo handle the matter with her, that ſhee wil make the  
good man beliene her daughter hath binne all this while  
at home with her, and that ſhee came to ſhun his bad blage,  
who had ſhee carried with him till then, had binne lamed ſo  
euer. Before God (quoth ſhee) I had rather you ſhoulde re-  
ſtore her againe to mee, then beate her thus without cauſe,  
for I knowe that you ſuſpect her wrongfully, and that ſhee  
hath neuer offended you: Thus I haue ſtraightlie examined  
her about it, but if ſhe wold haue bin naught, you did enough  
to prouoke her: by gods paſſion I thinke fewe women could  
haue borne it, wel it maye bee, that vpon theſe or the like  
words he takes her againe: it may bee alſo that they are both  
deſirous to be diuorced, each accuſing other, and ſeeking to  
winde themſelues againe out of Lobs pound, but in vaine,  
for either the cauſes that they alleadge are not thought ſuffi-  
cient by the Iudge howe hard ſo euer they pleade, but muſt  
of force continue ſtill together, are laughed to ſcorne of  
al that heares the cauſe: or if they be ſeperated, yet will not  
al this ſet them free, but rather plunge them, in deeper then  
before, but neither of them can marry while otheres liues:  
and their chaſtitie is ſo brittle, eſpecially heres, that holde it  
cannot, nor long endure: the who was wont to be ſo froliſch,  
muſt



## The batchelers banquet.

must needs continue so still, nay peradventure, being now without controulment, follows her ill life more freely then before: and whereas shee was but earst a private queane, is now common in the way of good fellowshippe, or else some lustie gallants takes her into his house, and keeps her by his nose, which must needs bee unto him an exceeding grieffe, and an open shame to the worlde: and which is worse, hee knowes not how in the worlde to remedie it, but must perforce endure both while this miserable life doth last

## CHAP. XI.



The humor of a woman to get her daughter  
a husband, having made a little  
wanton scape.

**T**he next humor that a woman is addicted unto, is, when a lustie young gallant riding at pleasure by and downe the countrey, especially to those places of sportes and pleasure where fine Dames and daintie Gyles meet, whoe can finely mince their measures, haue their tongues trayned vpp to amorous chat, in which delightfull exercises this yonger both by reason of his youth, his loose bringing vpp, and naturall inclination, takes great felicitie in such companie, and so much the rather, because hee findes himselfe alwayes welcome to such places, and the reason is the comelines of his person, his amiable countenance, and quaint behaviour, for whoe so euer hath these good helpes, shal want no fauour at womens handes: It may bee also, that his parentes are still liuinge, and hee their onely tope, they haue perhapes noe childe but him, so that all their delight is in mainteining him bzantly. It may bee also that hee is newly come to his landes, and lones to see fashions, though it cost his purse neuer so largely. If any Gentlewomanne offer anye kindnesse, hee is readie to requite it: and  
at

## The batchelers banquet.

at length through long prancing to many places, he lights on one that doth exceedingly please his eye, and inflame his hart, she is perhaps daughter to some Gentle man, some Citizen, or some worthy Farmer She hath a clean complexion, a fine proportion, a sweet countenance, a daintie tongue, and a sharp wit, by reason of all which good gifts, she is grown very famous. She hath been wooed, loved, and courted by the bravest gallants in that countrey, of whom perhaps some one being more forward and courageous then the rest, hath offered her such kindnesses, as stick by her ribs a good while after, and would needs enforce his courtship with such importunitie, that shee had not the power to resist it: for a woman that hath her fine wits, if she be in the hal of a cheereful sanguin complexion, cannot be so unkind, or so hard-hearted, as to deny, or repulse the petition of an amorous friend, if he do any thing earnestly prosecute the same. And (to be plaine) be she of what complexion soever, she wil be nothing slacke to grant such a sute. But to returne to our purpose, by reason of her tender compassion, and kind acceptance of this proffered service, it so falls out she hath played false, then is there no other shift but to keepe it close, and to take such order as best they can for the smoothing up of this matter, he that hath done the deed being a poore young man, though proper of body, and perhaps can dance very well, by which good qualittie he won her favour, & within a while after cropt the flower of her maydenhead: he (I say after a check or two and no further matter) least this private scap should be openly knowne) is warned from coming any more to the house, or frequenting her company whatsoever. But now you must note, that she being but a simple girl betwixtene fourteen and fifteene yeares of age, nothing expert, but rather a novice in such matters, and having bin but lately deceived, knows not her selfe how it is with her, But her mother which by long experience hath gotten great iudgment, doth by her colour, her complaining of paine at her hart and stomack, with other like tokens, perceives it wel enough, and havinge (as before I said) called to the authoz of the action, then takes she her



## The Bachelers Banquet.

her daughter aside, and schooles her so, that in the end she confesseth that he hath bin dallying with her, but she knowes not whether to any purpose or not. Yes (sayth her mother) it is to such purpose (as by these signes I knowe verve well) that you haue thereby shamed your selfe and al your friends, and spoiled your marriage quite and cleane. To be short, hauinge somewhat chid her after the common order, for hauinge no more respect nor care of her honestie (yet not chidinge verve extremely, because she knowes the frailtie of youth by her owne former experience) shee concludes thus comfortablie: sith it is done, and cannot bee altogether remedied, shee will seeke to salve the matter as well as shee can, charginge her daughter to set a good countenance vpon it, least it shoulde bee suspected, and to followe her counsel and commandement in al thinges: whereto the poore wench willinglye consenteth, then the mother proceedes thus: You knowe maister T. A. that commeth hither so often, hee is you see a proper young Gentleman, and a rich heere, to morrowe hee hath appointed to bee heere againe, looke that you giue him good entertainment, and shewe him good countenance. When you see me & the rest of our good guests talking together euer anon cast your eye on him, in the kindest and louingest manner that you can: if he desire to speake with you, bee not coy, but heare him willinglye, and were him courteously. If hee intreate lone of you, tell him that you knowe not what it meanes, and that you haue noe desire at all to knowe it, yet thanke him for his good will, for that woman is twobricourteous and bricimill, which will not vouchsafe the hearing, or gentlie answeringe to those that lone her, and wish her wel. If he offer you money, take none in anye case. If a ring, or a girle, or any such thing, at the first refuse it, yet kindlye and with thanks: but if hee bryge it on you twice or thre, take it, telling him, sith that hee will needes bestow it on you, you wil weare it for his sake. Lastly, when hee takes his leaue, aske him when hee will come againe: These instructions being thus giuen, and the plot layd for the fetching

## The batchelers banquet.

in of this kind sole into Lobs pound. The next day he cometh and is on al handes moze kindly welcome and entertained: after dinner hauinge had great cheare, the mother falls in talke with the other guests, and this frolicke monicc getshim as nere to the daughter as he can, and while the other are hard in chat, hee takes her by the hand and thus begins to court her: Gentlewoman, I would to God you knew my thoughts. Your thoughts sir (saith she) how should I know them except you tell them me: it may be you think something that you are loth to tel. Not so (saith he) yet I would you knew it without telling. But that (saith she) smiling, is impossible. Then quoth he, if I might do it without offence I would adventure to tell you them. Sir (saith she) you may freely speak your pleasure, for I do so much assure me of your honesty, that I know you will speake nothinge that may procure offence. Then thus (saith he) I acknowledge without fawning, that I am farre unworthy of so great a favour as to be accepted for your servant, friend, and Lover, which art so faire, so gentle, and every way so gracious, that I may truly say that you are replenished with all the good giftes that nature can plant in any mortal creature: But if you would vouchsafe mee this undeserued grace, my good wil, diligence, and continual forwardnes to serue and please you shoulde neuer faile, But I woulde therein equal the most loyal Lover that ever liued, I woulde esteeme you more then any thinge else, and tender more you good name and credit then mine owne.

Good Sir (quoth she) I hartily thanke you for your kinde offer, but I pray you speake no more of such matters: for I neither knowe what loue is, nor care for knowing it: This is not the lesson that my mother teacheth mee now-adayes. Why (saith he) if you please she shal know nothing of it, yet the other day I heard her talke of preferring you in marriag to Maister G. R. How say you to that (quoth she): Mary thus answeres the Gentleman, if you would vouchsafe to entertaine me for your servant, I would neuer marry, but relie on your favour.

But



## The Bachelers Banquet.

But that (saith she) should be no profit to either of us both, and beside it would be to my reproch, which I had not thought you would seek. Nay (quoth he) I had rather dy then seek your discredit. Well sir (saith she) speak no more herof, for if my mother should perceiue it, I were utterly vndone. And it may be her mother makes her a sign to giue ouer, fearing that she doth not play her part well. At the breaking vp of their amorous parley, he cometh into her hand a gold ring, or some such toy, desiring her to take it, and keep it for his sake: which at the first (according to his mothers precepts) she doth refuse: but vpon his more earnest byging of it, she is content to take it in y way of honestie, and not on any promise or condition of any farther matter: when it was brought to this passe, the mother makes motion of a iourney to be made the next morning, some ten or twelve miles off, to visit or feast with some friend, or to some fair, or what so euer other occasion presents it self: To this motion they all agree, and after wards sit downe to supper, where he is placed next the daughter, who carries her selfe so toward him with her pearcing glances, that the young heire is set on fire therewith: wel morning comes, they mount on horseback, and by the opinion of them all, there is neuer a boy in y company that can carry double but his, so that he is appointed to haue the maiden ride behind him, wher of he is not a little proud, and when hee feels her hold fast by the middle (which shee doth to staile her selfe the better) he is euen raiued with ioy. After their returning home which will bee the same night, the mother taking her daughter aside, questions with her touching all that had passed betwene the amorous gallant and her, which when her daughter hath rehearsed, then proceeds the willie Gramdame thus: It hee court thee any more (as I knowe hee will) then answer him that thou hast heard thy Father and mee talking of matching thee with Maister G. R. but that thou hast noe desire as yet to bee married: if hee then offer to make thee his wife, and vse compactes of his wealth and wealth, as if hee were euery waye as good as hee, thanke him for good wil and kindnes, and tel

## The batchelers banquet.

tell him that thou wilt speake with me about it, and that for thy owne part thou couldest find in thy hart to haue him to thy husband rather then any man else: vpon this lesson the daughter sleepes, & vniuing it all night in her mind. The next morning she walkes into the Garden, and this lustie yonger folloves, when hauing giuen her the time of the day, he saies to his former sute. She saies him to giue ouer such talke or shee will leave his companie: Is this the loue you beare me (quoth she) to seeke my dishonesty: You know well enough that my father and mother is minded to bestow me other wise. Ah my swete mistres (saith he) I would they did so farre fauour me herein, as they do him, I dare boldly say and sweare it, and without vaine glory vtter it, that I am euery way his equal. Oh sir, answeres she, I would hee were like you. Ah swete mistres, saith he, you deligne to thinke better of mee then I deserue, but if you would farther boochsafe me the other fauour, I should esteeme my self most happy. In troth sir, saith she, it is a thinge that I may not do of my selfe, without the counsell and consent of my parents, to whom I would gladly moue it, if I thought they woulde not bee offended: But it should be better if your selfe woulde breake the matter vnto them and be sure, if that they referre the matter to mee, you shal speed so sone as any, he being ramisht with these words, and peeling her infinite thanks, trots presentlie to the mother to get her good wil: To be short, with a little adoe the matter is brought about, euen in such sort as hee woulde desire, they are straigh way contracted, and immediately wedded, both because that her friends feare that the least delaye will pzenent al, and because he is so hot in the spurre, that hee thinks euery houre a yeare til it be done. Well: the wedding night comes, wherein she behaues her self so by her mothers counsel, that hee dares sweare on the Bible that hee had her maidenhed, and that himself was the first that trod the path. Within a while after it comes to his friends eares without whose knowledge he hath married himself, who are exceeding soze, knowing she was no meet match for him, and it may be they



## The batchelers banquet.

they haue heard withal of his wines humor : but now there is no remedie, the knot is knit, and cannot be vntane, they must therefore haue patience perforce. Well, he brings his faire Bride home to his owne house, where goodnot he hath but a smal time of pleasure, for within thre or foure months after their marriage, she is brought to bed, iudge then in what taking the poore man is, If he put her away, his shame wil be publick, she grows common, and he not not be permitted to marry againe while he liues, and if he keepe her still, loue her, he cannot, suspect her he will, and she both hate him, and perhaps seke his end: finally, all the ioyes, pleasures, and delights which befoze time they had, are al turned to hys toles banning, cursing, and fighting, thus is he hampered in Lobs pond, wher he must of force remain, til death end his liues miseries.

### CHAP. Xii

The humor of a woman being matched with  
an ouerkind husband.

**T**here is another humor incident to a woman, which is, when, a young man hath turneyd and tossed himself to long, that with much adoe hee hath gotten into lobes pond, and hath perhaps met with a wife according to his owne desire, and perchance such a one, that it had bin better for him to haue lighted on another, yet he likes her so well, that he wold not haue mist her for any golde, for in his opinion there is no woman alike like vnto her, hee hath a great delight to heare her, speake, is proud of his matche, and peraduenture is withal of so sheppish a nature, that hee hath purposed wholte to gouerne himselfe by her counsel and direction, so that if any one speake to him about a bargaine, or whatsoever other busines, he tels them that hee will haue his iudgement in it, and if shee bee content, he will go thorough with it, if not then wil he giue it ouer, thus is he as tame and pliable, as a Jack an apes to his keeper. If the Prince set forth an army,  
and

### The batchelers banquet.

and he be unwilling that he should go, who (you may think) will asac her leace, then must he stay at home, fight whee will for the country: But if she be at any time desirous to haue his room (which many times she likes better then his company) she wants no iourneyes to imploy him in, and he is as ready as a Page to undertake them: If she chide, he answers not a word, generally whatsoeuer she doth, or howsoeuer, hee thinks it well done. Judge now in what acase this silly calfe is, is not he thin: you finely drest that is in much subiection: The honestest woman, and most modest of that sexe, if shee weare the breeches, is so out of reason in taunting and controuling her husband, for this is their common fault, and be she neuer so wise, yet, because a woman, scarce able to gouern her self, much lesse her husbände, and all his affaires for wear it not so, God wold haue made her the head, which sith it is other wise, what can bee more preposterous, then that the head should be gouerned by the foote: if then a wise and honest womans superiortie be vnseemely, and breede great inconuenience, how is he drest, thinke you if hee light on a fond wanion, and malicious dame: Then doubtles hee is soundly sped, she will keepe a sweete hart vnder his nose, yet his he so blind & he cannot perceiue nothing, but for more secretie, she will many times send him packing beyond sea, about some odde errand which she will buzze in his eares, and he will perforce it at her pleasure, though shee send him forth at midnight, in rayne hagle, or snow, for hee must bee a man for all wetheres: Their children, if they haue any, must be brought vp, apparelled, fed, and taught accordinge to her pleasure: and one point of their learning is alwayes to make no account of their father. If any of their children be daughters, shee wil marrye them according to her minde to whom she list, when she list, and giue with them what dowry she list, without acquainting him therewith, till shee haue concluded the match, and then she tels him, not to haue his consent, but as a matter may tell his seruante, to giue him direction howe to behaue himselfe to deale therein:  
finally,



## The batchelers banquet.

Finally, she orders all things as she thinks best her selfe, making no more account of him, especially if hee bee in yeares, then men doe of an old horse which is past labour. Thus is hee metwed up in Lobs pound, plunged in a sea of cares, and cozassnes, yet hee (kinde foole) deemes himselfe most happye in his happines, wherein hee must now perforce remaine till life doth last, and pittie it were hee shoulde wante it, sith he likes it so well.

## CHAP. XII.

The humor of a woman, whose husband  
is gone ouer the sea vpon  
busines.

**A** other humor of a woman is, when the husbände hath binne married some seauen or eight yeares, more or lesse and as hee thinkes hee hath meet with a good wife as any man can haue, with whom he hath continued all y<sup>e</sup> aforesaide time with great delights and pleasures: But admit hee bee a Gentleman, and that hee is desirous to purchase honor by following armes, and in this humor hee resolues to make a step abroad, and not to tarrye alwayes like a cowardly drone by the smooke of his owne chimney, but when he is ready, to depart, she hauing her cheekes with tears, falls about his neck, cols, kisseth, and embraceth him, the weeping sighing, and sobbing, shee thus begins to him. Ah sweet husbände, will you now leaue me? wil you thus depart from me and from your children, whiche knowes not when wee shall see you againe, or whether you shal ever come home againe or noe? Alas swete husbände, goe not, tarrye with vs still, if you leaue vs wee are utterly vndone. Ah sweet wife (saith he) did I made mee not from this enterpryse, which concernes both my credite and alleagiance, so: it is our Prince commaundement, and I must obey: but be you wel assured that I wil not be long from you (if it please God.)

It

Thus

## The batchelers banquet.

Thus doth he comfort and quiet her in the best sort that he can, and be the neuer so importunate, be her teares neuer so many, her intreaty neuer so forcible, yet go he wil, esteeming his renowne and dutie to his Prince and country more then wife and children, though next to it he esteeme and loue them chiefest of al other. And at his departure hee recommends them to the care and curtesie of his chiefest friendes, yet some there be whose tender harts melt so easely with kind compassion, that one of their wines teares, and the least of their intreats, wil tie them so fast by the legge at home, that they wil not stir on fote from her sweet side, neither for king nor Key-sar, wealth nor hono<sup>r</sup>. These are crauens and bntwo<sup>r</sup>thy to be called gentlemen. But to returne to this vallo<sup>r</sup>ous and braue minded gentlman, of whom we spak before, it may be that either by the long continuance of the warres, or by his misfortune in being take prisoner, or some other let, hee comes not home in foure or fife yeares, & al that whil ther is no newes of him, you may be sure that his wife is a sorrowful woman, and wholly surchard with grieve, being thus deprived of her louing mate, and hearing nothing of his estate. But al things haue an end, and she seeing that in so long time, she can hear no tydings of him, doth perempto<sup>r</sup>y conclude that he is dead. Then considering to liue comfortles in widows estate, w<sup>e</sup>re an vncooth life, she determines to marry her self to some one so soon as conveniently she may, which wil be soon inough, for a faire woman, if willing can want no choyce. Thus her former sorrow is somewhat alaid, and within a while after clean extinguish, by the fresh delights, pleasure, contents and solace, which this new choice doth yeeid. So that now hir other husb<sup>an</sup>de is wholly forgotten, her ch<sup>il</sup>dren which she had by him little regarded, and the goods which belong to them, are spent on others, while the poore wretches want things needfull, but not blowes and hard blage. To be short, the teares which she bestowd on her other husb<sup>an</sup>de at his departure is dyed by, her imbraces vanished. And whosoever shoulde see her with this second husb<sup>an</sup>de, and what kinden esse shee thewes



## The Bachelers Banquet.

she comes vnto him, woulde verily thinke that shee loues him farre better then she did the first, who in the meane while is either prisoner, or els fighting in extreame hazard of his life. But in the end it chaunceth so, that by paying his ransome, (if he haue bene prisoner) home hee comes, cleane chaunged thozough the many troubles he hath had: And being com som what nere, failes not to inquire of his wife and chldzen, for he is in great feare, that they are either dead or in some great distresse. And doubtles in the time of his imprisonment or other daungeres, hee haue ofte thought, ofte dreamed of them, and oft sorrowed for them, oft sought God to preserue and blesse them. And that perhaps sometimes, at the very instant when she was in the others armes, toying and ballying and in the midst of her delights. Tell, inquiring (as before said) heares that she is married againe, then iudge you with what griefe he heares it. But his griefe is bootlesse, for now the matter is past remedy, if he haue any care of his credite, any regard of his estimation, he will neuer take her more, though perhaps the other hauing had his pleasure of her, could be wel content ether to restore her to him, or to leaue her to any one else. She on the other side is utterly shamed, and her name stained with perpetuall reproch, and neither he nor she can marry while they liue. Their poore chldzen are likewise grined and shamed at their mothers infamy. Sometimes likewise it happens, for the wines cause, the husband being coragious, doth quarrel and perhaps combat with him, who being better then himselfe, doth either wound or kill him, and the occasion hereof spring from their wines pride, because for sooth shee will take the wall of the others wife, or sit above her, whom she wil in no wise suffer, nor lose an inch of her estate, and hereupon the husbands must together by the ears. Thus the supposed blessednes which hee expected by plunging himselfe in lobs pound, is turned into sorrow, trouble, danger, and continuall discontent while life doth last.

¶

CH A P.

## The batchelers banquet.

### CHAP. XIII.

The humor of a woman that hath bene  
twice married.

**T**here is another humor belonging to a woman, which, is when a young man hauing found the way into Lobbes pound, meetes with a wife of like years, fresh, lusty, fair, kind and gracious, with whom he hath liued two or thre years, in al delights, ioyes and pleasure that any married couple could haue, neuer did the one displease the other, neuer soule word pass betwixt them, but they are almost stil kissing and colling each other, like a couple of doves. And nature hath framed such sympathy betwene them, that if the one be il at ease or discontented, the other is so likewise. But in the midst of this thetr mutual loue and sollace, it chanceth that she dies, wher at he grieues so extreamely, that he is almost beside himselfe with sorrow: he mournes, not only in his apparel for a shew, but vnfainedly, in his very heart, and that so much, that hee shunnes al places of pleasure, and al company, liues solitary and spends the time in daily complaints & mones, and bitterly bewailing the losse of so good a wife, where in no man can iustly blame him, for it is a losse worthy to be lamented. And a felwel which whosoere hath is happy (but this happines is very rare). To be short, his thoughts are al on her, and she so firmly printed in his mind, that whether he sleepe or wake, she seemes alwaies to bee in sight, but as all thinges hath an end, so here had sorrow. After awhile some of his friends hauing spied out a second match, which as they think is very fit for him, do preuaile so much with him, through her persuasions, that hee accepts it and marries himselfe againe, but not as before, with a yong maid but with a lusty widow, of a middle age, and much experience, tobo by the trial which she had of her first husband, knowes how to handle the second, but that she may do it the better, she doth not presently disco-

ner



## The Batchelers Banquet.

ner her humoꝝ, til she haue thoroughly markt how he is inclined, what his conditions are, & what his nature is: which finding milde, and kind, and very flexible (the fittest mould to cast a soale in) hauing now the full length of his foot, then shewes she her selfe what she is, brumasking her dissembling malice, her first attempt is to vsurpe superiortie, and to become his head, and this shee obtaines without any great difficultie for there is nothing so lauish as a simple & wel natured young man being in subiection, that is married, to a widow, especially if she be, as the most of them are, of a peruers and crabed nature. I may very wel compare him to an vnso: that wretch whose il happe is to bee cast into a stronge prison, vnder the keeping of a cruel and pittilesse Jaylor, that is not moued to compassion, but rather to great rigor, in the beholdinge the miseries of this poore wretch, whose onely refuge in this distresse, is to pray vnto God to giue him patience to endure this crosse, for if hee complaine of his hard vsage, it will afterwards prove worse.

But to procede: This iolly widow wil within a while grow Jealous, feare and suspect that some other came hath part of that which she so mightily desireth, and wherewith shee could neuer bee satisfied, so that if hee glut not her insatiable humoꝝ, straightway shee conceiueth this opinion: If hee doe but talke, nay, which is worse, looke on any other woman, for shee by her good will woulde bee alwayes in his armes, or at the least in his companie: For as to the fish whiche hauinge beene in water, that through the heate of the sommer is halfe dyled vpp, becommes to sticke full of mudde, seekes for freshe water, and hauinge founde it, doth willingly remaine therein and wil in no wise returne to his former place: euen so an olde woman, hauinge gottenne a younge man, will cling to him, like a Jay to an Olive. But on the other side, a young man cannot lone an olde woman, howsoeuer hee doth dissemble, neither is there any, that more endaungers his death: for it is with him, as with one that drinketh musty wine, who if he be thirsty

feeles

### The batchelers banquet.

feels nothinge whyles hee is drinking, but at the ende of his draught, he feels such a displeasing taste, that it doth almost turne his stomach. But if yong men in no wise can fancy old women, what loue thinke yon yong women can beare to old men, whē besid the sondry imperfections of their age, which are so loathsome, that it is impossible for a fresh yong tender damsell, be shee neuer so vertuous, to endure the companye, much lesse the kisses and imbraces of the persone which hath them: All the lusty gallantes thereabouts will not faile to blee whatsoeuer deuises and meanes possible for the hozminge of the olde dotard, hoping that shee wil bee easily won to wantonnes: and surely they ground this hope on great likelihood, for sith it is no difficult exploit to graft the like kindnes on a yong mans forehead, who is not able in far better measure to seeke is wines appettie, and shee hath therefore more cause to be true to him, it may surely seeme no great matter to performe the like picce of seruice with this other infortunate dame, who is almost hungerstarued for lacke of the due beneuolence of wedlocke. But now to returne to our young man, yea (as before I saide) to this olde widdow, I conclude that his estate is most miserable: for besides the danger of his health, and beside the subiection, nay rather seruitude which hee liues in, this third evil, I meane his wines tealousie, is alone an intolerable torment vnto him, so that be he neuer so quiet, neuer so desirous to content her, neuer so fearful to displease her, yet cannot he auoyd her brayles, obiections, and false accusations of lecheries and disloyaltie, for an olde woman infected with tealousie, is lik a hellish furie: If he go to any of her friends about any busines, yea too the Church to serue God, yet will shee alwayes thinke the worst, and assure her selfe, that he playes false though inderde he be neuer so continent, who whatsoeuer he pleadeth in his owne defence, yea though he proue himselfe blameles, be such reasons as she can by noe reason confute yet will not all this satisfie her, such is the perversenes of her stubborne, crabbed, and malitious nature, made worse by dotage and raisinge tealousie,



## The batchelers banquet.

raging Zealouſie, ſoꝛ being priuie to her ſome defectes, and knowing that he, by reaſon of his youth and haſt, may perchance fall in ſeruiſe with a yong dame, thinking withall that a yong man, whē he may haue ſuch a match, ſhould be loth to leaue it ſoꝛ a worſe, oꝛ prefer ſchewer veruice beſore ſtrete wine. ſhe concluds peremptory in theſe ſuggeſtions as before. As here the iſſue of this aſſes turning into Aols pound, and intangling of himſelf again, when he had once gotten out to his former liberty, which if he once moꝛe loke ſoꝛ, he is mad ſoꝛ he muſt now perforce continue there till his life doth laſt, which this meanes will be faire ſtoꝛy, and hee looke farre older, hauing beene but two yeares married with this olde criſp, then if he had liued ten yeares with a yong wiſe.

## CHAP. XV.

The humor of a young woman giuen ouer to all kind of wantonneſſe.

**T**her is yet another humor that a woman is ſubiect to which is, when an vnfortunat yong man hauing long labored to get into Aols pound, & hauing in the end obtained his deſires, doth match himſelfe with a luſty wanton yong wench, which without fear of him oꝛ care of her owne credit, takes her pleaſure freely, and withal ſo ouerboldly, and vnauidely, that within a whil her husband perceiues it, who there vpon being not a little iraged, doth in the heate of his impatience, after much brawling on both ſides, roughly and deſperately threaten her, thinking thereby to terrifie her, & make her honeſt by compulſion: But that makes her worſe, ſoꝛ inperas beſore ſhe did it ſoꝛ wantonneſſe, now will ſhe do it ſoꝛ deſpight: and what with the one and the other, he ſo inflamed that were ſhe ſure to be killed ſoꝛ it, yet would ſhe not leaue it: which he perceiuing, watching her poſings ſo narrowly, that in the end he ſees her ſweet hart com cloſely to his honeſt, then

## The batchelers banquet.

then being on fire with furie, runnes hastily to surprize him, and enters his wifes chamber with full purpose to kill him, though he had ten thousand liues: But iudge you in what a taking the poore yong man is, is seeing himselfe thus surprized, and looking for nothing els but present death, because hee hath nothinge to defende himselfe. But theerfor whose sake hee hath incured this daungere, doth himselfe free him by this stratagem, for as her husband is ready to strike or slay him, shee catcheth him hastily aboute the middle, crying out, Alasse man what dooe you meane? While shee thus saies her hauband, the yongkere betakes him too his heeles, running downe the staires amayne, and out of the doores, as if the diuell were at his tayle, and after him the good man as faste, as hee can driue. But when hee sees that he cannot overtake him hee turnes backe in a like rage, to wreake his angere on his wife. But shee dreadinge as much, getes her halbielpe (before his returne) to her mother, to whome shee complaines, of his causelesse suspicion, and deuillish sorie, iustifying her selfe, as if she wer not the woman, that would commit so leand a part: But her mother listning the matter narrowly, her daughter confesseth her faulte, but too make it seeme the lesse she teles him a large tale of the younge manes importunity, whose for so longe time together, did continuallye trouble her, and whether soeuer shee wente, hee would be sure to follow her, begging pitifully her loue and fauour, that she had often sharply answered him, & flatly denied his sute, yet could she not for all that be rid of him: so that in the end, she was enforced for her owne quietnes to graunt his request. She repeats withall, how kindly & intierly he loues her, how much he hath bestowed on her, how many soule iournaies he hath had for her sake, in rapne and snowe, as well by night as daye, in daunger of thames, in perrill of his life, and how narrowly he escaped her husband the last time, so that for verie pittie and compassion, she was moued to fauour him, & no woman could be so hard harted, as to suffer so true and kind a yong man to



## The batchelers banquet.

languish for her love, and die vnrregarded: for on my life mo-  
ther (saith she) if I had not yelded, he woulde haue dyed for  
thought.

The mother hearing her daughter to saye thus, acceptes  
her answere for currant, and thinkes that shee hath suffici-  
ently iustificed her selfe, but to pzeuent further scandal, and to  
appease her angry sonn in law & reconcile her daughter vnto  
him by casting a mist befoze his eyes, she takes this course, she  
sends for her especiall gossip & companions, whose counsels in  
like cases she doth vse, they comming at the first cal, & being  
all assembled either befoze a good fier (if it bee winter) or in a  
greene arbor (if it be somer) one of the noting her daughters  
heavy countenance demands y<sup>e</sup> cause therof: Mary, saith she,  
she hath had a mischance, about which I haue made bold to  
trouble you, & craue your aduice: with that she recounts the  
whole matter vnto them, but shewing the true cause of her  
husbands anger: to be short, she hath ready to or the pottles  
of wine, & a few iunkets, which they presently set aboord, that  
they may the better giue their severall verbits after wards,  
mean whil they cōfort the young woman, bidding her assure  
her self, that hir husband is moze perplexed then she: and that  
I know by mine own experience, for my husband and I wer  
once at variance, but he could neuer be quiet til we wer made  
friends. In good saith gossip (saith another) and so serued I mine  
Another makes a motion to set for the yong gallant that is so  
true a lover to her gossips daughter, that his presence may  
cheer her, & rid away her melancholly. This motion doth hir  
mother faintly cōtradict, but in the end most voics preuaile,  
he is sent for, and comes with a trice, then ther is much good  
chat, many a reproche and kinde scoffe giuen the poore hus-  
band: And to mend the matter comes in the chambermaid,  
who was pziue to all the former close packing between her  
mistres and her sweete hart, and for her silence and imploy-  
ment in furthering both their contents, she hath gotten a new  
gowne, and somewhat els: it may be her maistres had sent hir  
abroad about some business, or perhaps she coines an excuse  
of

### The batchelers banquet.

of her selfe, thereby to make a step abroad to see her mistresse, and to bring her newes how al things go at home: She hath no sooner set a foote within the roome wher they are, then one of them askes how her maister doth: My maister (saith she) I neuer saw a man in that taking: I dar say that since yester day morning when this misfortune happened, he hath not eaten one crum, dranke one drop, or slept one winke al pester night. To day he sat down to dinner, and put one bit in his mouth, but could not swallow it, so he spit it out presently, and sat a good while after in a dumpe: In the end striking his knif on the table he rose hastily, and went into the garden, and immediately cam in again: To be short, he is altogether out of temper, and can rest no where: he doth nothing but sigh and sob, and he looks like a dead man: hereat they laugh apace, and to be short, they determine that two of the chiefe of them, shall goe and speak with him the next morning, & that when they are in the midst of ther talk the rest shall come in afterward. The mother with her two gossipes, according to this plot doe procede in the matter. And next morning finding him in his dumes, one of them gentilly askes him what he ayles: herto he answeres onely with a sigh: wherupon she takes occasion thus to speak. In good faith gossip I must chide you, my gossip your wines mother told mee I know not what of a disagreement betweene your wife and you, and a certain fond humor that you are fallen into: Alas I am sorry to hear it: And before God you are not so wis as I had thought you had ben, to wrong your wife thus without a cause, for I durst lay my life ther is no such matter. By this good day (saith another) I haue knowne her ever since she was a little one, both maide and wis, and I neuer saw but wel by the womā: And in good sooth it grieues me to the very hart, that her name shold now come in question without cause: Before God, you haue don the pooze woman that disgrac, and so stained her good name, that you neuer be able to make her amendes. Then stepe in the chamber-maid with her five eggs. In good faith (saith she), I know not what my maister hath seene, or wheron hee doth



## The batchelers banquet.

doth ground his suspicion, but I take God to my witnes that  
I neuer saw any such matter by my mistresse, and yet I am  
sure that if there were any such thing, I should see it as soone  
as another. Gods body dzab, saith he al mrago, wilt thou face  
me ddwone of that which my self saw: Dh gossip, quoth on of  
the dams, God-fozbid, that euery man and woman which is  
alone together should do euill. I deny not, saith the chamber-  
maide, that the villan knaue hath long sued vnto my mistrest  
foz such a matter, but by my honesty master, I know y there  
is neuer a man aliuie whom she bats more: and rather the she  
would commit any such folly with him, she would se him hagd  
and be burned her self: I maruel how the diuel hee got into  
the house. Were the other gossips com in on after another, and  
each gues her bett: In good faith gossip, saith one, I think  
that next your wif, ther is not a woman in the world y loues  
as you suspect, be sure I wold not let to tel you of it. Surely  
saith another, this is but the diuels worke to set them at vari-  
ance, soz he cannot abide that husband and wif shold liue wel  
together. In good faith saith the third, the poore woman doth  
nothing but weep. By Chyill quoth the fourth I fear it wil  
cost her her life, she grines and takes on in such sort. When  
come she nother weeping & cryng out, making as thogh she  
would scratch out his eyes with her nails, exclaiming in this  
sort. Ah cursed catiffe, wos worth the hower that euery my  
daughter match with thee, to be thus shamed & slandered, &  
serued, that would take such a base charle, when shee might  
haue her name spotted without caus. But she is well enough  
be not out of pittance. Ah gossip, saith shee, if my daughter  
were in fault, by our good lord I wold kill her my self. But  
think ye I haue no caus to be moued, when I see my chld, be-  
ing gittles thus vled: with that she flinges out of doores in a  
rage, and all the gossips comes vpon him thicke & threefold,  
who is so full of sundrie thoughts, & so griened and troubled,  
that he knowes not whereon to resolve, nor what to say. In  
the

## The batchelers banquet.

At the end they growing somewhat calmer, promise if he will, to undertake the reconciling of him and his wife, which he most earnestly desireth them to do. They accordingly perform it, so that all controuersies are ended, all strife ceased, the matter hushed up, and his wife taken home again, who taking greater courage by the successe hereof, and being now cleane past shame, will grow furr bolder in her villany then before. And the poore meacock on the other side, hauing his courage thus quailed, will neuer afterward sal at odds with her, for feare of the like storme, but wil suffer her to haue her own say,

ing in all things, and be in a manner subject to

her, spending the remnant of his life in

care, feare, discontent, and grieffe,

his goods waisting he knowes

not how, and himselfe a

laughing stock to al

that knowes

him.



FINIS.



